Opening Trends
Open Ruy Lopez
140 Annotated Games

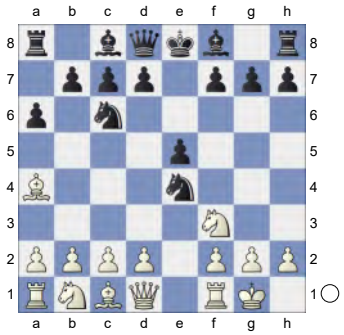


Chess Notes 2025

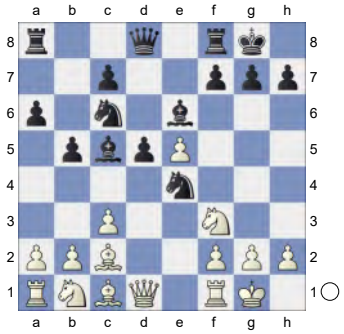
1 **C82**
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2757**
■ **Erigaisi,Arjun Kumar** **2782**
2nd UzChess Cup Masters (3.3) 21.06.25
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7

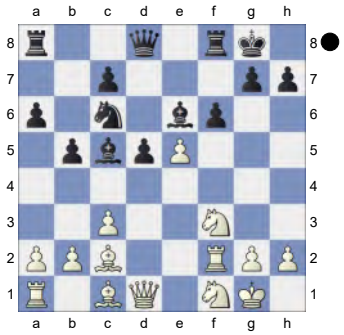
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Bc2 0-0

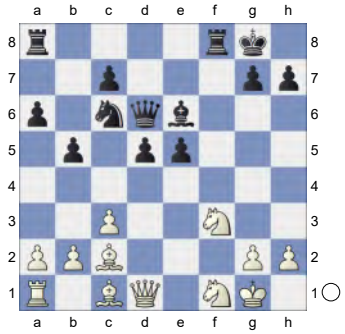


11.Nbd2 Nxf2 12.Rxf2 f6 13.Nf1

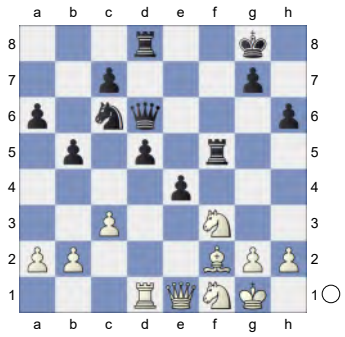


Black must now prevent Be3. **13...Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 fxe5** Strongly threatening ...e4.

15.Kg1 Bxh7+! is the strong threat. White is slightly better. **15...Qd6**

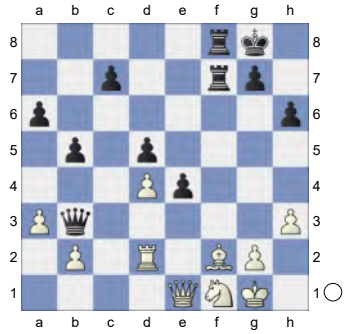


16.Be3 Rad8 17.Qe1 Bf5 18.Bxf5 Rxf5 19.Rd1 h6 20.Bf2
[Much worse is 20.Ng3 Rf7∓]
20...e4
[20...Rf7]

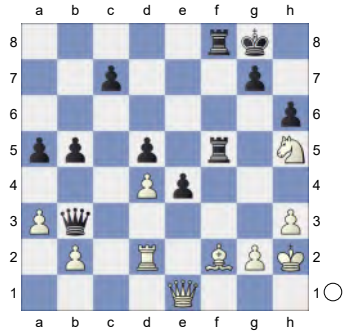


21.Nd4N
[21.Bg3 exf3 22.Bxd6 f2+ 23.Qxf2 Rxf2 24.Kxf2 Rxd6 25.Ne3 d4 26.cxd4 Nxd4 27.b4 Nc6 28.Rxd6 cxd6 29.Nd5 Kf7 30.Ke3 Ke6 31.Ke4 Ne7 32.Nf4+ Kf6 33.a3 g5 34.Nh5+ Kg6 35.Ng3 h5 Fromm,M (2425)-Babula,V (2574) Germany 2023 ½-½ (48) 36.h3 h4 37.Ne2 Kf6 38.Nd4 d5+ 39.Kf3 Ng6 40.Nb3 Ne5+ 41.Ke2 Nc4 42.Nc5 Nxa3 43.Nxa6 Ke5 44.Nc5 Kd4 45.Ne6+ Kc3 46.Nxg5 Nc2 47.Nf3 Nd4+ 48.Nxd4 Kxd4 0-1 (48) Fromm, M (2472)-Gallo Garcia,K (2356) Mexico City 2023]
21...Nxd4 22.cxd4 Rdf8 23.Rd2

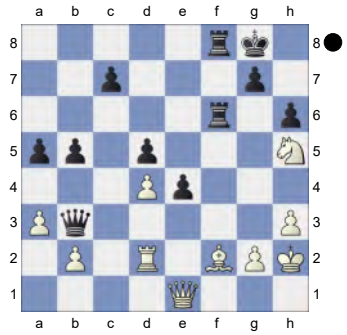
White has compensation. **23...Qb4 24.a3 Qb3 25.h3 R5f7**



26.Ng3 -0.01/22
[26.Ne3± 0.44/21]
26...Rf6 The position is equal. **27.Kh2 a5 28.Nh5! Rf5 29.Ng3 R5f6 30.Nh5! Rf5**



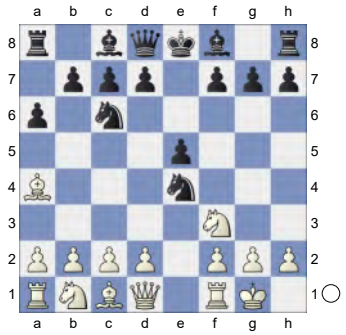
31.Ng3 R5f6 32.Nh5!



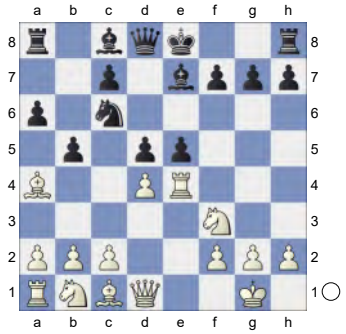
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

2 **C80**
☐ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2723**
■ **So,Wesley** **2751**
Superbet ROM Classic 2025 (2.1) 8.5.25
[Kitty Kat]

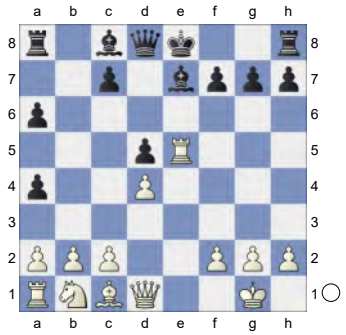
C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 Strongly threatening Bb3. **8...d5**

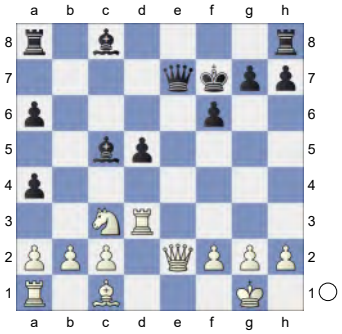


9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 White is slightly better. **10...bxa4**

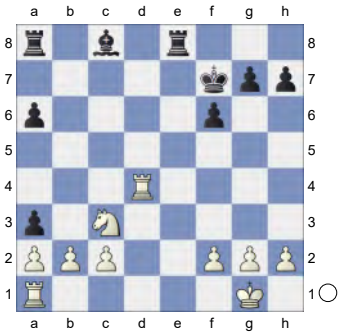


11.Qe2 f6 0.87/22

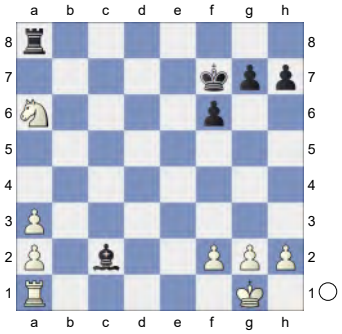
[11...c6± 0.40/19 is superior.]
12.Re3± &Bianco is more active. **12...c5 13.dxc5 Kf7 14.Nc3** Black must now prevent Nxd5! **14...Bxc5 15.Rd3**
[15.Nxa4 Bxe3 16.Bxe3 Re8∓]
15...Qe7



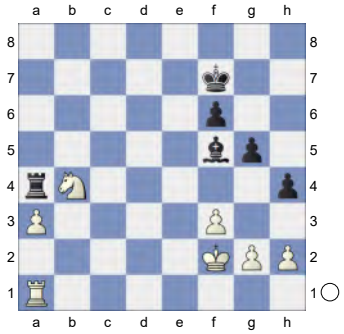
16.Be3 d4 17.Bxd4 Qxe2 18.Nxe2 Re8N 19.Nc3
[19.Bxc5 Rxe2 20.Rc3 Bf5=]
19...Bxd4 20.Rxd4 a3



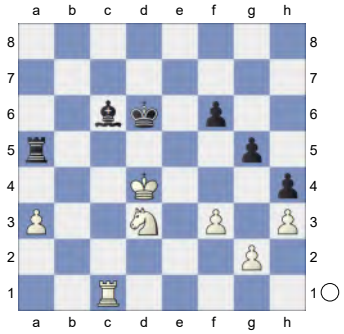
21.bxa3 Bf5 Prevents Ne4. **22.Nd5 Bxc2 23.Nc7** 0.42/25
[White should try 23.Ne3± 0.77/21 Bg6 24.Rd7+ Re7 25.Rad1]
23...Rad8 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Nxa6± Endgame KRB-KRN **25...Ra8**



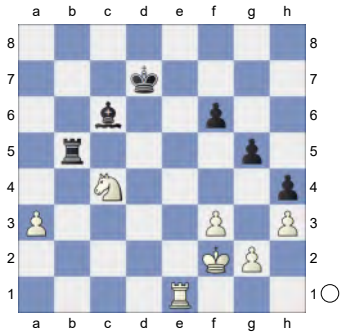
26.Nb4 Bf5 27.a4 Rxa4 28.a3 h5 29.f3 g5 30.Kf2 h4



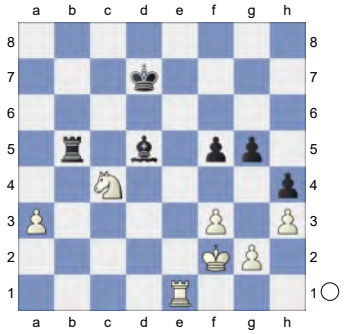
31.Ke3 Ra5 32.Kd4 Bd7 33.Nd3 Bc6 34.h3 Ke6 35.Rc1 Kd6



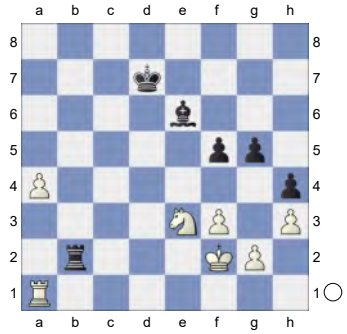
36.Nb2 Rd5+ 37.Ke3! Re5+ 38.Kf2 Rb5 39.Nc4+ Ke7 40.Re1+ Kd7



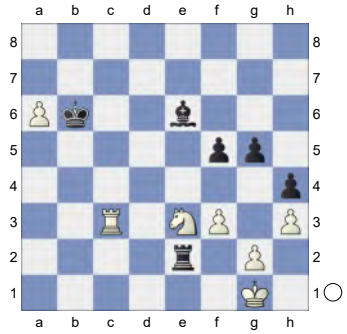
41.Ne3! f5 42.Nc4 Bd5



43.a4! Rb4 44.Ne3 Be6 45.Ra1! Rb2+



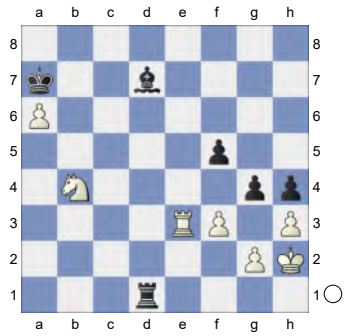
46.Kg1 Re2 47.Ra3 Kc6 48.a5! Kb7 49.a6+! Ka7 50.Rc3 Kb6



Prevents Rc7. **51.Nc2** aiming for Nd4. **51...Rd2** Prevents Nd4. **52.Nb4** Threatens to win with Rc6+. **52...Bd7** Inhibits Rc6+. **53.Ra3** And now a7 would win. **53...Ka7 54.Re3** Hoping for Re7. **54...Rd1+** 1.51/23

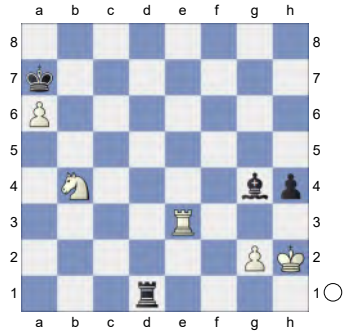
[⌓54...Rd4 1.05/21]

55.Kh2± g4



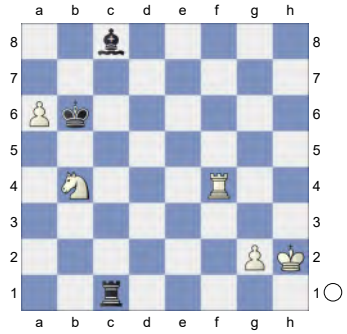
56.hxg4 fxg4 57.fxg4 Bxg4

(Diagram)



58.Re4! Bc8 59.Rxh4 Rc1 60.Rf4 Kb6 2.26/23

[⌓60...Rc7 1.82/24 61.g4 Bxa6]



61.Rf6+? 0.01/22

[61.Rf8+- 2.26/23]

61...Kb5= 62.Rf8 Kb6 2.31/23

[62...Rc7± 1.17/21 was worth a try.]

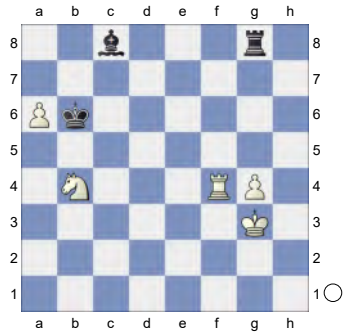
63.Rf4 1.31/22

[63.Rg8+- 2.31/23]

63...Rc5 1.67/21

[63...Kb5± 1.31/22 64.g4 *(64.a7 Ra1±)* 64...Rc3]

64.g4+- Rg5 65.Kg3 Rg8

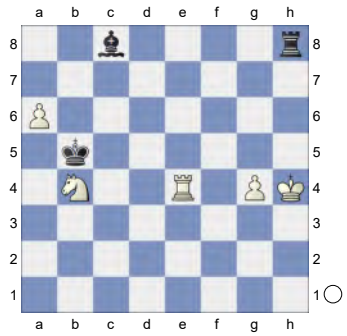


66.Re4 Kb5 67.Kh4

[Don't take 67.a7?! Bxg4 68.Rxg4

Ra8±]

67...Rh8+

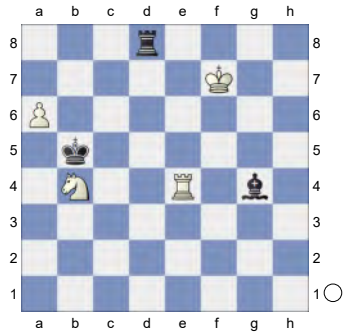


68.Kg5! Rg8+? 4.74/21

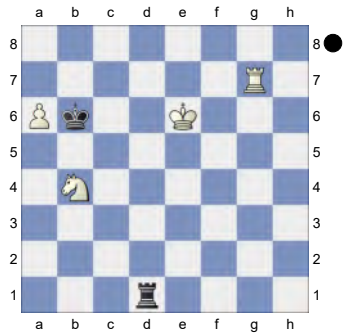
[68...Kb6 2.02/21 keeps fighting. 69.Rf4 Rg8+ 70.Kh4 Rh8+ 71.Kg3 Rg8]

69.Kf6 Bxg4 70.Kf7 White is clearly winning. **70...Rd8** 7.84/24

[⌓70...Rh8 5.05/26 71.Rxg4 Rh1]



71.Rxg4 Rd1 72.Ke6 Kb6 73.Rg7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

1-0

3 **C80**

□ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2739**

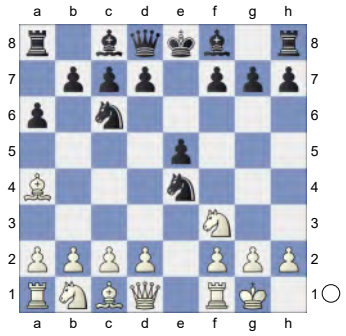
■ **Aronian,Levon** **2747**

Superbet POL Rapid 2025 (1.3) 26.04.25

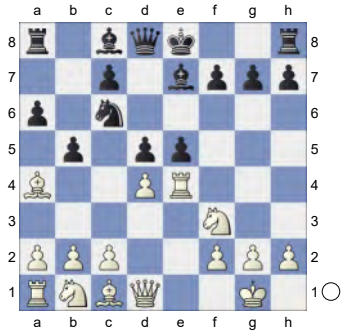
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves

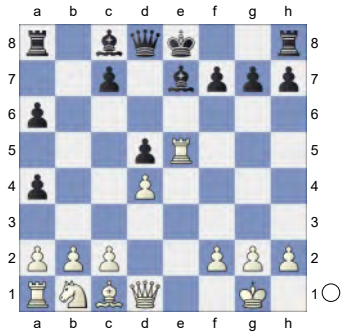
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 aiming for Bb3. **8...d5**



9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 White is slightly better. **10...bxa4**



11.Qe2 0.28/20

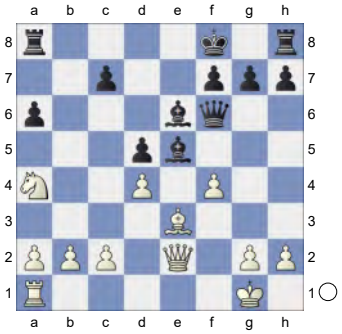
[11.c4± 0.66/17 might be stronger.]

11...Be6= 12.f4

[Reject 12.Rxe6 fxe6 13.Qxe6 Qd6∓]

12...Kf8 13.Nc3 And now f5 would win.

13...Bd6 14.Nxa4 Qf6 15.Be3 Bxe5



16.fxe5

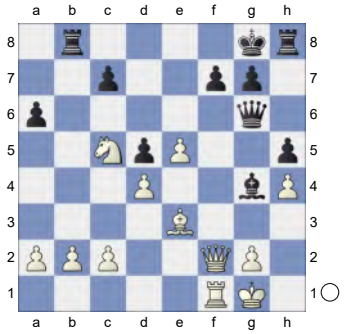
[16.dxe5 Qg6 17.Nc5 Kg8 18.c3 h5 19.a4 Bf5 20.a5 h4 21.b4 Qh5 22.Qd2 c6 23.h3 Rh6 24.Kh2 Rg6 25.Bf2 Rh6 26.Re1 Kh7 27.Be3 Rg6 28.Bf2 Rh6 29.Be3 Rg6 30.Bf2 Rh6 Ivic,V (2558)-Murzin,V (2442) Moscow 2020 [Perunovic,Milos] ½-½ (31)]

16...Qg6 17.Nc5 White has compensation. **17...h5 18.h4 Bg4N**

[18...Kg8 19.Rf1 Kh7 20.Bg5 Rhf8 21.Rf4 Rab8 22.b3 Rb6 23.Rf2 Kg8 24.a4 Ra8 25.Kh2 a5 26.Qf3 Rb4 27.Qf4 Rb6 28.Kg1 Rbb8 29.Kh2 Rb6 30.Kg1 Rbb8 31.Qf3 Rb4 32.Qf4 Rbb8 ½-½ (32) Wieczorek,O (2505)-Hagner,B (2361) Vrnjacka Banja SRB 2023 [Kosten,Tony]]

19.Qf2 Kg8 20.Rf1 Rb8

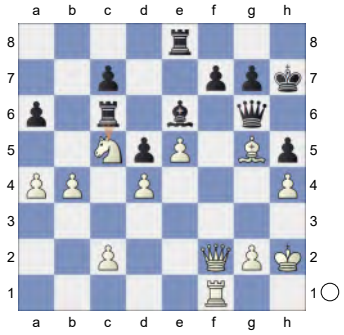
(Diagram)



21.b3 Rb6 22.Bg5 Rc6 23.Kh2 Be6 24.a4 0.35/20 0x0.00235969625cdp-1022s more active pieces. The black rooks are badly placed.

[⌓24.b4 0.67/21]

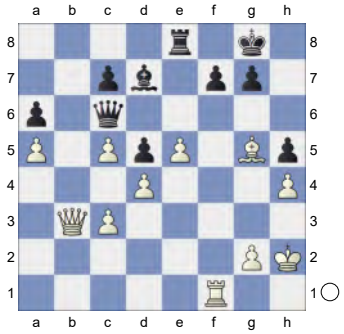
24...Kh7!± 25.b4 Re8



26.a5 Kg8 27.c3 Bg4 28.Qa2 Rxc5 29.bxc5 Qc6 1.30/23

[⌓29...Rb8 0.77/22]

30.Qb3± Bd7



31.Rf3 0.84/23

[⌓31.Rb1 1.34/21]

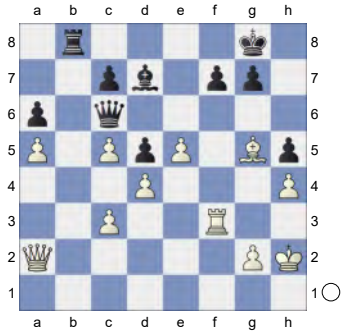
31...Qa8 32.Qc2 Qc6 1.29/21

[⌓32...Qb7 0.85/23]

33.Qa2 0.83/23

[⩲33.Qd2 1.29/21]

33...Rb8



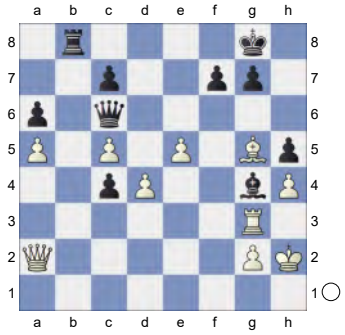
34.Rg3 0.33/21

[34.Bf6!± 1.01/21 Threatens to win with Qd2! Be6 *(34...Bg4 35.Qd2)* 35.Bg5]

34...Bg4 35.c4 0.01/21

[35.Re3± 0.54/20]

35...dxc4=



36.Qxc4 Strongly threatening d5.

36...Qb5 0.35/23

[36...Rb5= 0.01/22]

37.Qd5 Qf1 0.47/24

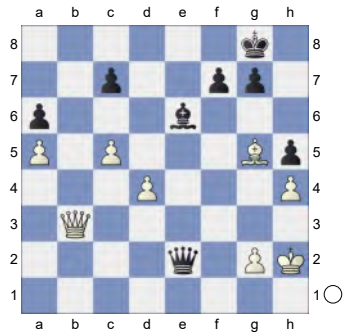
[37...Qe2= 0.16/21 is more appropriate.]

38.Rb3± Rxb3 39.Qxb3 Qe2 40.e6 0.01/24

[White should try 40.Qd5± 0.51/23]

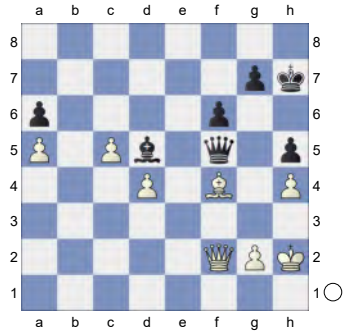
40...Bxe6=

(Diagram)



41.Qb8+ Kh7 42.Qxc7 Bd5 43.Qg3 f6⇄ Black has counterplay **44.Bf4 Qe4 45.Qf2 Qf5**

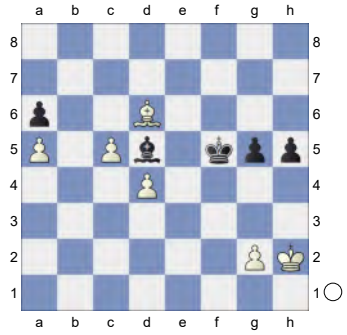
[45...Bc6 seems wilder. 46.Bd6 Kg6 47.Kg3 Kh7]



46.Bg3 Qxf2

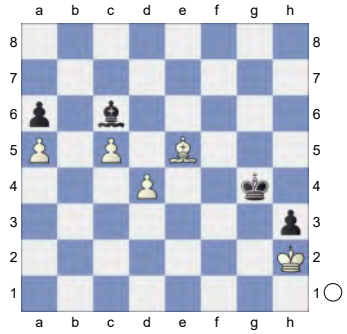
[46...Qe4 feels hotter. 47.Bb8 Bc6 48.Bf4 Kg6]

47.Bxf2 Endgame KB-KB **47...Kg6** The position is equal. **48.Bg3 Kf5 49.Bd6 g5 50.hxg5 fxg5**

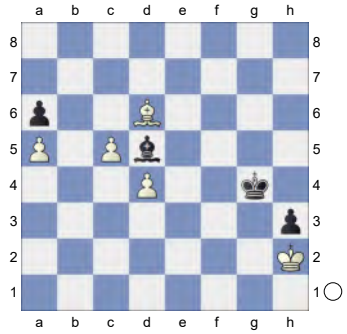


51.Be7 h4 52.g3 Kg4 53.gxh4 gxh4 54.Bf6 h3 55.Be5 Bc6

(Diagram)



56.Bd6 Bd5 57.Be5 Bc6 58.Bd6 Bd5

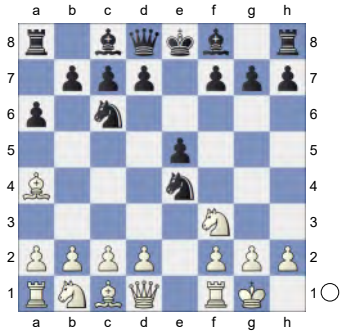


Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

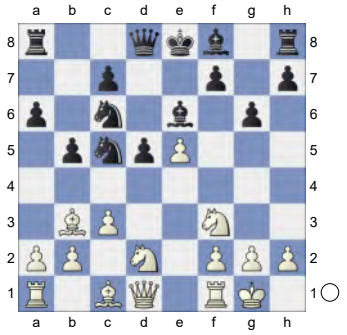
4 **C80**
☐ **Stockfish Dev Cf1064** **3683**
■ **LCZero 0.31-dag-f7fb268-BT4-6**
TCEC 27 Superfinal 2024 (90.1) 01.01.25
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 g6



11.Bc2 Qd7N 0.60/18
[11...Bg7!= 0.26/19 should be considered. 12.Re1 *(12.Nd4 Nxe5 13.f4 Nc4 14.Nxc4 dxc4 15.f5 Bd5 16.Qe1+ Kd7 17.Qg3 Kc8 18.Bg5 Qd6 19.Bf4 Qb6 20.Rad1 Rd8 21.Qh3 Kb7 22.Qxh7 Bxd4+ 23.Rxd4 gxf5 24.Be3 Qg6 25.Qxg6 fxg6 26.Rfd1 Kc6* Gruenfeld,Y (2480)-Grinshpun,E (2395) Israel 2012 CI1-130 [Simic,Radoslav] 1-0 (59) *)*
A) 12...Nd7 13.Nb3 *(13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 c5 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.Bb3 c4 17.Bc2 0-0 18.h3 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Nb8 20.Be3 Nc6 21.Qg3 f6 22.f4 Nb4 23.Bb1 fxe5 24.fxe5 Qc7 25.a3 Nc6 26.Bc2 b4 27.axb4 Nxb4* Almasi,Z (2676)-Kortschnoj,V (2632) Budapest HUN 2003 10000 Comentadas [Fernandez,Jorge Luis] ½-½ *)*
13...Ndxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.f4 Nc4 16.f5 gxf5 17.Qh5 0-0 18.g4

Bc8 19.Nd4 Bxd4+ 20.cxd4 Kh8 21.gxf5 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik];

B) 12...0-0 13.Nb3 Nd7 14.Bg5 Qc8 15.Bf4 Ne7 16.Qd2 c5 17.Bh6 Qc6 18.Qg5 Rfe8 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.h4 a5 21.a4 h6 22.Qf4 Reb8 23.Nbd2 b4 24.c4 b3 25.Bxb3 Rb4 26.cxd5 Nxd5 Efimenko,Z (2572)-Kobylkin,E (2444) Ukraine 2004 CI1-130 [Efimenko,Z] 1-0 (52) 27.Bxd5 Bxd5 28.Qe3 Nf8 29.b3 Ne6 30.Rac1 Qb7 31.Rc3 Rd8 32.Rd3 Bxf3 33.Nxf3 Rxd3 34.Qxd3 Rxb3 35.Qd1 Rb4 36.h5 g5 37.Qc2 Qc6 38.Ra1 Rg4 39.Qf5 Rf4 40.Qc2 Rg4 41.Qf5 Rf4 Weis,D (2654)-Pink,J (2706) USSR 29/395 2009 CBM 150 [Anilkumar] 0-1 (52)]

12.a4

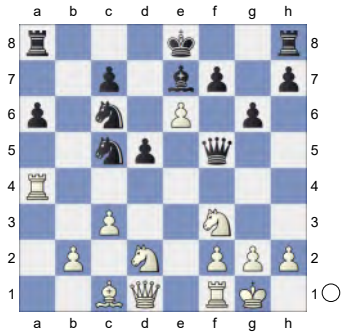
[12.b4 Na4 13.Bxa4 bxa4=]

12...bxa4 13.Rxa4 White is slightly better. **13...Bf5**

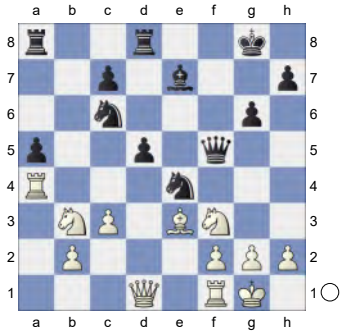
[13...Nxa4? 14.Bxa4 Bg7 15.Nd4+-]

14.Bxf5 Qxf5 15.e6 Be7

[15...Nxa4? 16.Qxa4 0-0-0 17.Qxa6+ Kb8 18.Qb5+ Kc8 19.Qxc6+-]



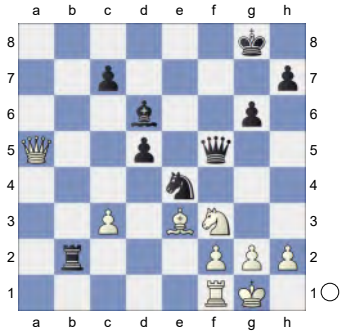
16.exf7+ Kxf7 17.Ra1 a5 Against b4 **18.Nb3 Ne4 19.Ra4 Rhd8 20.Be3 Kg8**



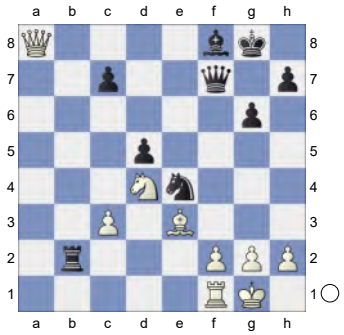
21.Qa1 Bd6 22.Qa2 Rdb8 23.Nxa5

[23.Re1 with more complications. Ra6 24.Nbd2 Nxd2 25.Nxd2 Kg7 26.Rh4]

23...Nxa5 24.Rxa5 Rxa5 25.Qxa5 Rxb2

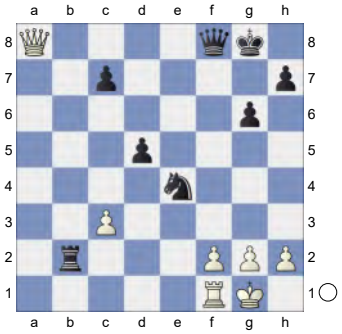


26.Qa8+ Bf8 27.Nd4 Qf7

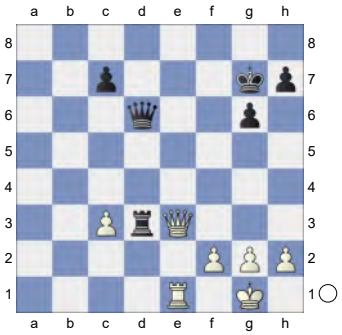


28.Ne6 Against c5 **28...Qxe6 29.Bh6! Qd6 30.Bxf8 Qxf8**

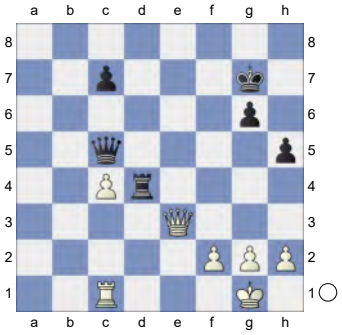
(Diagram)



31.Qxd5+ Kg7 32.Qxe4± Endgame KQR-KQR **32...Qc5** Inhibits Qe5+. **33.Qd3 Qd6 34.Qe3 Rd2 35.Re1 Rd3**

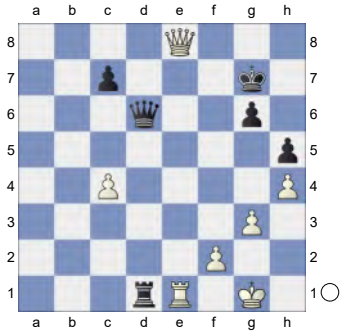


36.Qe8 And now Re7+ would win. **36...Kh6 37.c4 Rd4 38.Qe2 Qc5 39.Qe3+ Kg7 40.Rc1 h5**

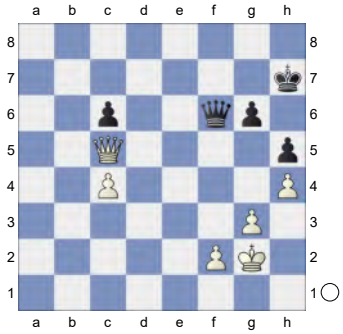


41.h4 Qd6 42.g3 Rd3 43.Qe4 Rd4 44.Qe8 Rd2 45.Re1 Rd1

(Diagram)



46.Rxd1 &Bianco is more active. **46...Qxd1+** KQ-KQ **47.Kg2 Qd6** Inhibits Qe7+. **48.Qe4 Qf6 49.Qd5 c6 50.Qc5 Kh7**



51.Qa7+ Kg8 52.Qb8+ Kg7 53.Qa7+ 0.01/27

[53.Qb7+± 1.10/27 Kg8 54.Qc7]

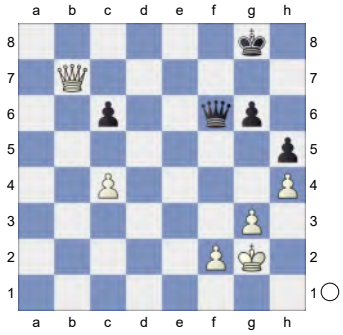
53...Kg8!= 54.Qb8+ -0.01/27

[54.Qd7± 1.05/27]

54...Kh7 1.14/28

[54...Kg7!= -0.01/27]

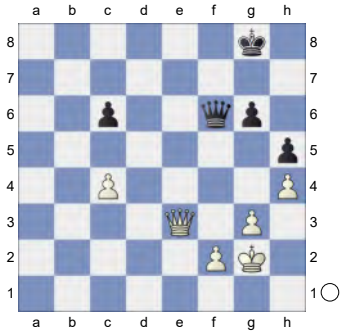
55.Qb7+ Kg8



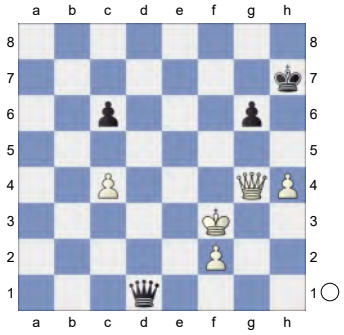
56.Qc7 Qe6 57.Qb8+ Kh7 58.Qc7+ 0.01/26

[58.Qa7+± 1.18/26 Kg8 59.Qd4]

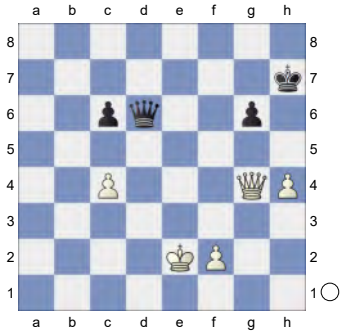
58...Kg8 59.Qf4 Qe7 60.Qe3 Qf6



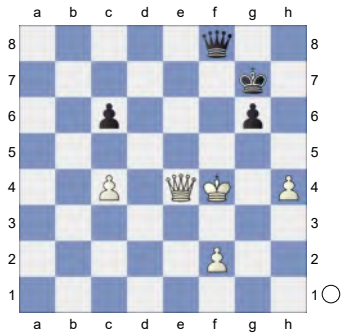
61.Qg5 Qe6 62.g4 0.77/24
[⌓62.Qd8+ 1.26/24 Kf7 63.Qc7+ Ke8 64.Qf4]
62...hxg4± 63.Kg3 Kh7 64.Qxg4 Qd6+ 65.Kf3 0.01/22
[65.Kg2± 1.02/27]
65...Qd1+=



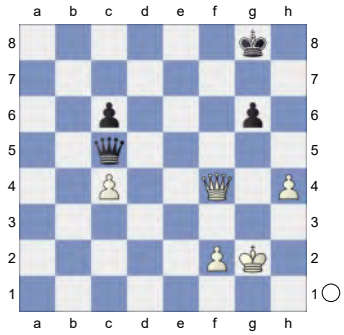
66.Kg3 Qg1+ 67.Kf3 Qd1+ 68.Kf4 Qd6+ 0.90/26
[68...Qd4+= 0.01/24 69.Kg3 Qc5 70.Qd7+ Kg8]
69.Ke3± Qa3+ 70.Ke2 Qd6



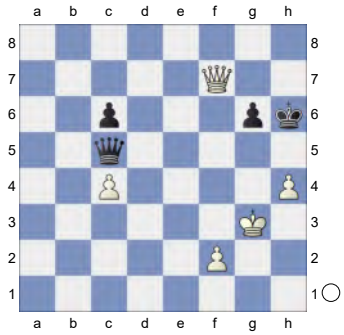
71.Qe4 Kg7 72.Ke3 Qa3+ 73.Ke2 0.01/25
[73.Kf4± 0.92/25]
73...Qd6!= Prevents Qe5+. **74.Ke3** -0.01/24
[74.Kf3± 0.76/24]
74...Qa3+! 75.Kf4 Qf8+



76.Kg3! Qa3+ 77.Kg2 aiming for Qd4+.
77...Qc5 Against Qd4+ **78.Qf4 Kg8 79.Kh3** 0.71/25
[⌓79.Kh2 1.10/27]
79...Kg7± 80.Kg2 -0.01/24
[80.Kg4± 0.81/27]
80...Kg8!=



81.Kf3 Kg7 82.Qc7+ Kf6 83.Qf4+ -0.01/19
[83.Qd8+!± 0.70/25 Kf7 84.Qc7+ Kg8 85.Qf4]
83...Kg7 84.Kg3 Kh7 85.Qf7+ Kh6



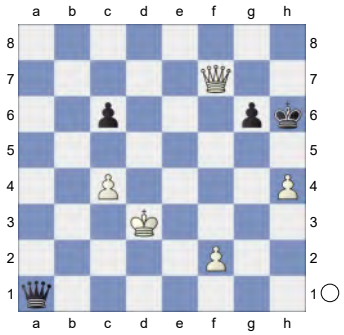
86.Kf3 Qh5+ 87.Kg3 0.01/24

[Better is 87.Ke3± 0.71/26]

87...Qc5! Inhibits Qf8+. **88.Kf3** 0.01/24

[88.Qe6± 0.74/25 Qe3+ is the strong threat. Kh7 89.Qf7+ Kh6]

88...Qh5+ 89.Ke3 Qe5+ 90.Kd3 Qa1



91.Qf8+ Kh7! 92.Qf7+ 0.01/19

[White should play 92.Qe7+± 0.78/22 Kh6 93.Qf8+ Kh7 94.Qf7+ Kh6 95.Qf4+ Kh7 96.Qc7+ Kh6 97.Qf4+ *(97.Qxc6 Qd1+ 98.Ke4 Qe2+ 99.Kd5 Qf3+ 100.Kd6 Qf6+ 101.Kd7 Qf7+ 102.Kd8 Qf8+ 103.Kd7 Qf7+ 104.Kc8 Qf8+ 105.Kc7 Qe7+ 106.Kc8 Qf8+ 107.Kd7 Qf7+±)* 97...Kh7 98.Qf7+ *(98.Qc7+ Kh6±)* 98...Kh6]

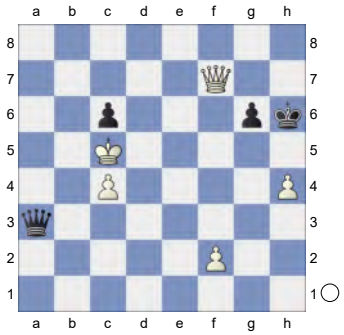
92...Kh6! 93.Ke4 Qe1+ 1.40/25

[93...Qb1+± 0.60/22 94.Ke5 Qb4 95.Qf4+ Kg7]

94.Kd4± Hoping for Qf4+. **94...Qa1+** 2.61/26

[94...Qb4± 1.28/25]

95.Kc5+- Qa3+



96.Kb6!

[96.Kxc6 Qa6+ 97.Kd7 Qa4+ 98.Kd8 Qa8+ 99.Ke7 Qa7+ 100.Ke8 Qa8+ 101.Ke7 Qa7+ 102.Ke6 Qa6+ 103.Ke5 Qa1+ 104.Kf4 Qc1+ 105.Ke5 Qa1+ 106.Kf4 Qc1+ 107.Ke4 Qe1+ 108.Kd4 Qa1+ 109.Ke4 Qe1+ 110.Kf3 Qd1+ 111.Kf4 Qc1+±]

96...Qb4+ 97.Kc7

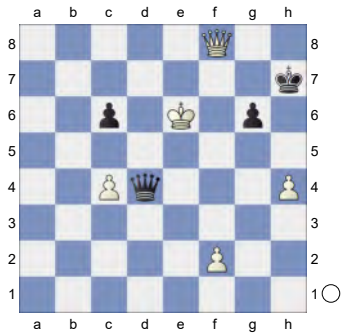
[97.Kxc6 Qa4+ 98.Kb7 Qb4+ 99.Kc6 Qa4+ 100.Kb7 Qb4+ 101.Kc8 Qc5+ 102.Kb7 Qb4+±]

97...Qa5+ 98.Kd7 Black must now prevent Qf8+.

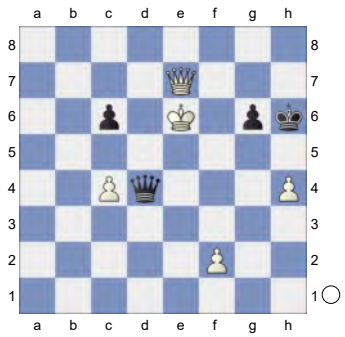
[98.Kxc6 Qa6+ 99.Kd7 Qb7+ 100.Ke6 Qa6+ 101.Ke5 Qa1+ 102.Kd5 Qa5+ 103.Kd6 Qa6+ 104.Kc5 Qa5+ 105.Kd6 Qa6+ 106.Ke5 Qa1+ 107.Kf4 Qc1+ 108.Ke5 Qa1+±]

98...Qa7+ 99.Ke6 Qd4 100.Qf8+ Kh7 2.84/27

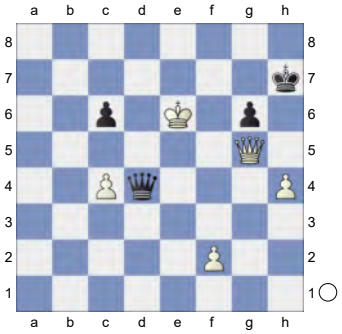
[100...Kh5± 1.57/28]



101.Qe7+ Kh6



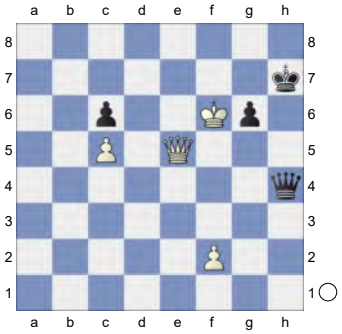
102.Qg5+! Kh7



103.c5! Qd1 104.Qe5 Qg4+ 105.Kf6? 0.66/24

[White should try 105.Kd6+- 3.22/24 Strongly threatening Qe7+. Qf3 106.Kc7]

105...Qxh4+±



106.Ke6 Threatens to win with f4.

106...Qh3+? 2.79/27

[106...Qxf2± 0.83/24 107.Qc7+ Kh6]

107.Kd6+- Qc8 108.Qe7+

[Not 108.Qe4 Qd8+ 109.Ke5 Qb8+ 110.Kd4 Qb4+ 111.Kd3 Qxc5=]

108...Kh6 109.Qd7

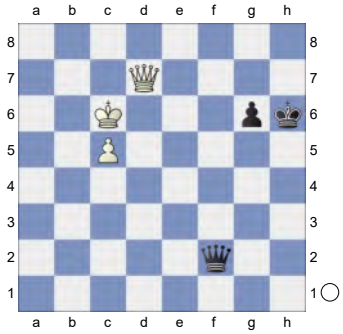
[And not 109.Qe4 Qd8+ 110.Ke5 Qh8+ 111.Kd6 Qd8+ 112.Ke5 Qh8+ 113.Kd6 Qd8+=]

109...Qf8+

[109...Qxd7+ leads to mate. 110.Kxd7 Kh5 111.Kxc6 Kg5 112.Kd6 Kf4 113.c6 Kg4 114.c7]

110.Kxc6 Qxf2

(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless)

1-0

5 **C80**

□ **LCZero 0.31-dag-f7fb268-BT4-6 3652**

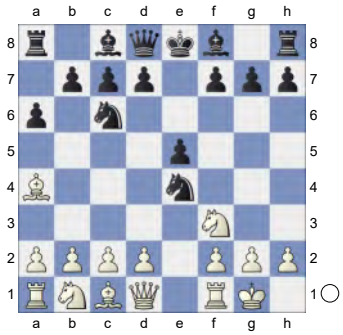
■ **Stockfish Dev Cf1064 3683**

TCEC 27 Superfinal 2024 (89.1) 01.01.25

[Kitty Kat]

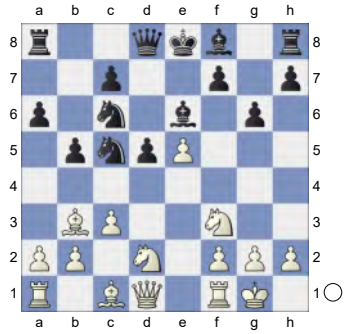
C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 g6

(Diagram)



11.Bc2 Qd7N

[11...Bg7 12.Re1 *(12.Nd4 Nxe5 13.f4 Nc4 14.Nxc4 dxc4 15.f5 Bd5 16.Qe1+ Kd7 17.Qg3 Kc8 18.Bg5 Qd6 19.Bf4 Qb6 20.Rad1 Rd8 21.Qh3 Kb7 22.Qxh7 Bxd4+ 23.Rxd4 gxf5 24.Be3 Qg6 25.Qxg6 fxg6 26.Rfd1 Kc6* Gruenfeld,Y (2480)-Grinshpun,E (2395) Israel 2012 CI1-130 [Simic,Radoslav] 1-0 (59) *)*

A) 12...Nd7 13.Nb3 *(13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 c5 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.Bb3 c4 17.Bc2 0-0 18.h3 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Nb8 20.Be3 Nc6 21.Qg3 f6 22.f4 Nb4 23.Bb1 fxe5 24.fxe5 Qc7 25.a3 Nc6 26.Bc2 b4 27.axb4 Nxb4* Almasi,Z (2676)-Kortschnoj,V (2632) Budapest HUN 2003 10000 Comentadas [Fernandez,Jorge Luis] ½-½ *)*

13...Ndxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.f4 Nc4 16.f5 gxf5 17.Qh5 0-0 18.g4 Bc8 19.Nd4 Bxd4+ 20.cxd4 Kh8 21.gxf5 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik];

B) 12...0-0 13.Nb3 Nd7 14.Bg5 Qc8 15.Bf4 Ne7 16.Qd2 c5 17.Bh6 Qc6 18.Qg5 Rfe8 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.h4 a5 21.a4 h6 22.Qf4 Reb8 23.Nbd2 b4 24.c4 b3 25.Bxb3 Rb4 26.cxd5 Efimenko,Z (2572)-Kobylkin,E (2444) Ukraine 2004 CI1-130 [Efimenko,Z] 1-0 (52) Nxd5 27.Bxd5 Bxd5 28.Qe3 Nf8 29.b3 Ne6 30.Rac1 Qb7 31.Rc3 Rd8 32.Rd3 Bxf3 33.Nxf3 Rxd3 34.Qxd3 Rxb3 35.Qd1 Rb4 36.h5 g5 37.Qc2 Qc6 38.Ra1 Rg4 39.Qf5 Rf4 40.Qc2 Rg4 41.Qf5 Weis,D (2654)-Pink,J (2706) USSR 29/395 2009 CBM 150 [Anilkumar] 0-1 (52)]

12.Nd4

[12.b4 Na4 13.Bxa4 bxa4=]

12...Nxe5 13.a4 White is slightly better.

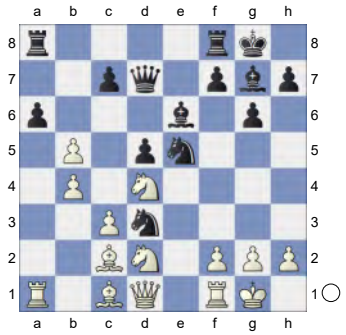
13...Bg7 1.19/20

[13...Nxa4? 14.Rxa4 Bd6 15.Ra1+-]

[13...bxa4± 0.50/19 14.b4 axb3 15.N2xb3 Nxb3 16.Bxb3 c6]

14.axb5± Strongly threatening b4.

14...0-0 15.b4! Ncd3



16.Rxa6 Qc8 1.60/22

[Black should try 16...Nxc1 1.29/18 17.Qxc1 Qe7]

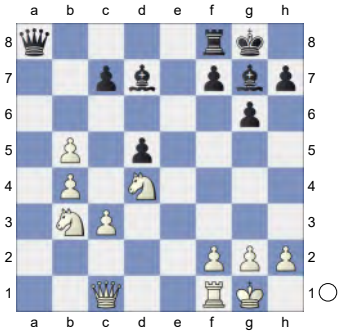
17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Bxd3 Nxd3

19.N2b3 1.00/20 Inhibits Qa1. Pair of Knights!

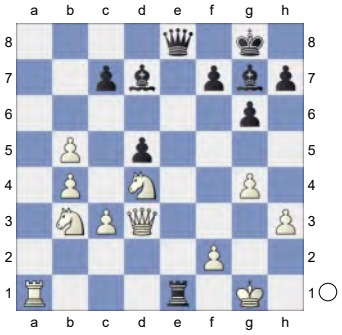
[⌓19.N2f3 1.36/22 Nxc1 20.Qxc1]

19...Nxc1 20.Qxc1 Bd7

(Diagram)

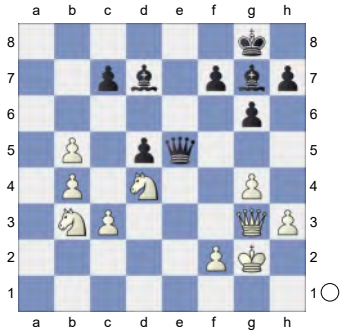


21.Qd2 Re8 22.Ra1 Qb8 23.Qd3 Re7 24.h3 0.56/21
[24.Nc5± 1.11/22]
24...Qe8± 25.g4 -0.01/20 &Bianco is more active.
[25.Ra2± 0.61/21]
25...Re1+=

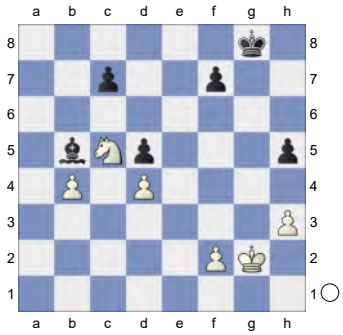


26.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 27.Kg2 Qe8 28.Qg3
[Much less strong is 28.Nc5 Bxd4 29.Nxd7 *(29.cxd4 Bxb5 30.Qf3 h6=)* 29...Bxc3±]
28...Qe5 29.Qd3 -0.01/22
[29.Nc5± 0.94/24 Qxg3+ 30.Kxg3 Bxd4 31.cxd4 Bxb5 32.g5]
29...Qe8 30.Qg3 -0.01/20
[But not 30.Nc5 Bxd4 31.Nxd7 *(31.cxd4 Bxb5 32.Qg3 Qe1=)* 31...Bxc3±]
[30.Kf1± 1.06/20]
30...Qe5!

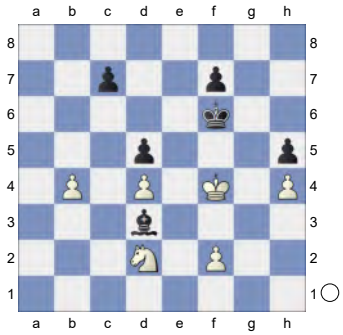
(Diagram)



31.Qf3 h5! 32.gxh5 0.66/22
[32.Nc5± 0.99/24 hxg4 33.hxg4]
32...Qxh5± 33.Qxh5
[33.Nc5 looks sharper. Qg5+ 34.Qg3 Qxg3+ 35.fxg3 Bxd4 36.cxd4 Bxb5 37.Kf3]
33...gxh5 34.Nc5 0.35/28
[Better is 34.Kg3± 1.24/24]
34...Bxd4 35.cxd4 0.01/25
[35.Nxd7± 0.35/29 Bxc3 36.b6 cxb6 37.Nxb6]
35...Bxb5

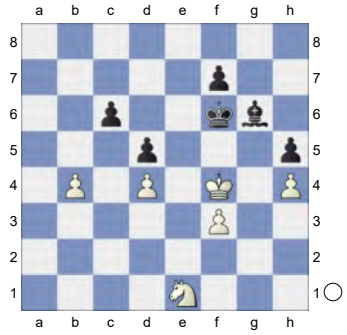


Endgame KB-KN **36.Kg3** White wants to play Kh4. **36...Kg7 37.h4 Kg6 38.Kf4 Kf6 39.Nb3 Bc4 40.Nd2 Bd3**

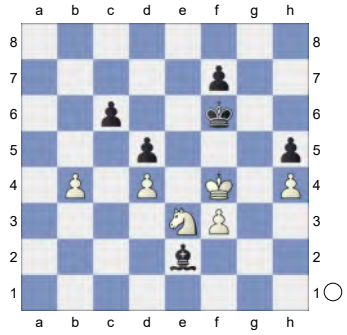


41.Nf3 Be4 ...Bxf3 is the strong threat.

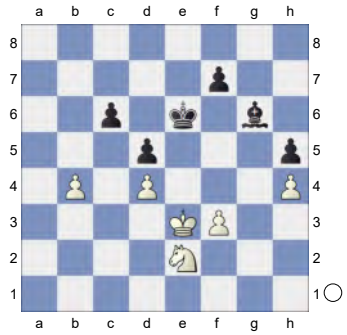
42.Ne1 c6! 43.f3 Bg6 0.73/33
[43...Bb1± 0.34/32 might be stronger.]



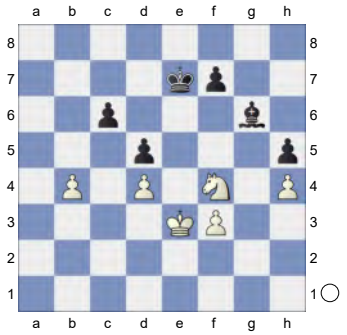
44.Ng2!± Bd3 45.Ne3 0.01/29
Inhibits Bf1.
[45.Kg3± 0.71/31]
45...Be2=



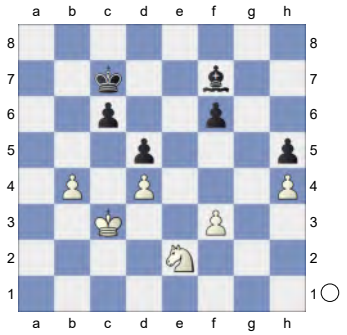
46.Ng2 And now Ke3 would win.
46...Bd3 47.Ke3 Bg6 48.Nf4 Kf5
49.Ne2 0.01/33
[49.b5!± 0.84/31 cxb5 50.Nxd5]
49...Ke6 0.73/30
[49...f6= 0.01/33]



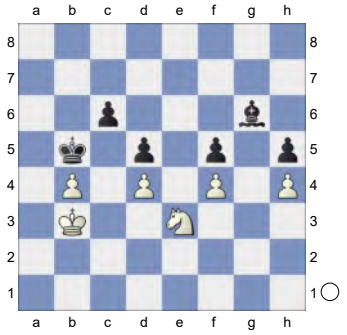
50.Nf4+ -0.01/27
[50.b5!± 0.73/30]
50...Ke7 0.93/28
[50...Kf5!= -0.01/27 keeps the balance.]



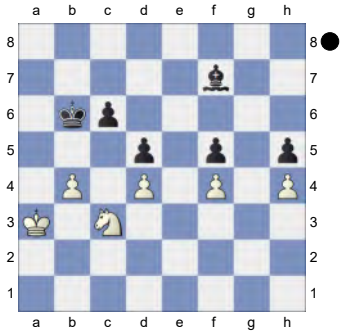
51.Ne2 -0.01/31
[51.Kd2± 0.93/28]
51...Ke6 52.Kd2 0.01/31
[White should play 52.b5± 0.51/28]
52...f6 The position is equal. **53.Kc3 Kd6 54.Nf4 Bf7 55.Ne2 Kc7**



56.Ng3 Bg6 57.f4 f5 58.Nf1 Kb6 59.Ne3 Ka6 60.Kb3 Kb5



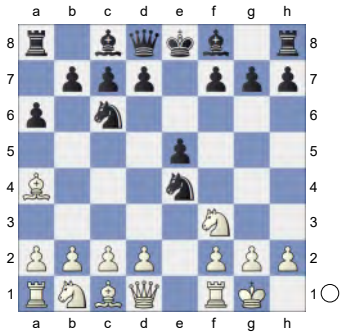
61.Nd1 Be8 62.Nc3+ Kb6 63.Ka4 Bf7 64.Ka3
(Diagram)



Black escapes into a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

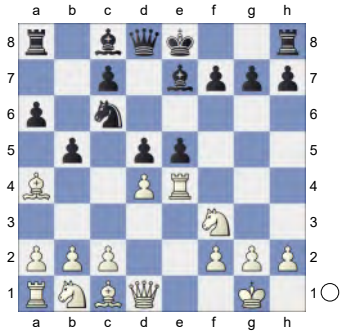
6 **C80**
□ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2741**
■ **Aronian,Levon** **2748**
Champions Showdown Kings (2.2)
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

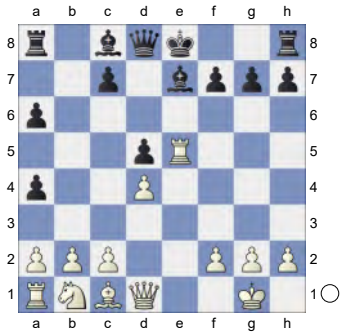


6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 aiming for Bb3. **8...d5**

(Diagram)



9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 White is slightly better. White is slightly better. **10...bxa4**



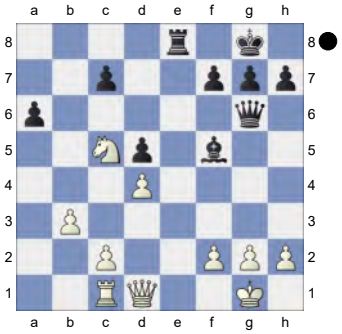
11.b3 0.13/21
[11.Nc3± 0.64/19 c6 12.Nxa4]
[11.Nc3± 0.69/20 c6 12.Nxa4]
11...0-0!= 12.Ba3
[Much weaker is 12.bxa4 -0.49/20 12.Nc3 0.20 Bf6 13.Re1 Re8=]
12...Bxa3 13.Nxa3 Re8 14.Rxe8+ Qxe8 15.Nb1
[15.Qd2 Bf5 16.Re1 Inhibits Qe7. Qc6 17.c4 axb3 18.axb3 h6 19.cxd5 Qxd5 20.Nc4 Be6 21.Re5 Qd7 22.d5 Rd8 23.dxe6 Qxd2 24.Nxd2 Rxd2 25.g3 fxe6 26.Rxe6 Ra2 27.Rc6 Ra3 28.Rxc7 Rxb3 29.Ra7 Ra3 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♗c4_43147 (2780)-Molina,R (2872) Livny RUS 2019 Karpov: Move by Move [Nikolic, P;Kapengut,Albert] ½-½ (43) 30.g4 h5 31.gxh5 Kh7 32.Kg2 Ra5 33.f4 Ra3 34.Ra8 a5 35.Ra6 a4 36.f5 Rb3 37.Rxa4 Rb5 38.Rf4 Kh6 39.f6 gxf6 40.Rxf6+ Kxh5 41.h4 Rb2+ 42.Rf2 Rxf2+ 43.Kxf2 Kxh4

½-½ (43) 4.d4 ♘f6 5. ♗c4_43147 (2780)-Molina,R (2872) Livny RUS 2019 Karpov: Move by Move [Nikolic, P;Kapengut,Albert]]

15...Qe6N

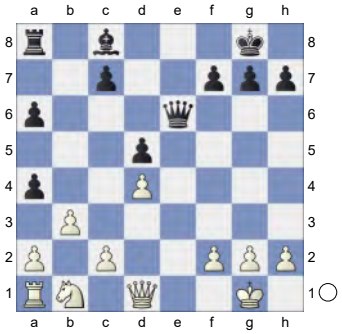
[15...Qc6 16.Qd2 Bf5 17.Nc3 a3 18.Re1 Rd8 *(18...Bg6)* 19.Re2 0.13/20 *(19.Re3± 0.47/19)* 19...h5= 20.Re5 Bg6! 21.h3 Rd6 22.Kf1 f6 23.Re2 Re6 24.Rxe6 Qxe6 25.Nd1 Qd6 26.Ke2 c6 27.Qc3 f5 28.f4 Qxf4 29.Qxc6 Bf7 Strongly threatening ...Qe4+. 30.Qc8+ Divya,D (2470)-Tsolakidou,S (2445) Nicosia CYP 2025 [Kitty Kat] ½-½ (41) Kh7 31.Ne3 Bg6 32.Qc5 Qg3 33.Qxd5 f4 34.Nd1 Bxc2 35.Qxh5+ Kg8 36.Qe8+ Kh7 37.Qh5+ Kg8 38.Qe8+ Kh7 39.Qh5+ Kg8 40.Qd5+ Kh7 41.Qh5+ ½-½ (41) Divya,D (2470)-Tsolakidou,S (2445) Nicosia CYP 2025 [Kitty Kat]]

[15...axb3 16.axb3 Bf5 17.Nc3 Qe6 18.Na4 -0.01/22 *(18.Qd2± 0.36/18* was preferrable.*)* 18...Qg6= 19.Rc1 Re8 Threatens to win with ...Bxc2! 20.Nc5 -0.80/20 *(20.g3!=* -0.24/20 keeps the balance. *)*



20...Bxc2! The Be7 Spanish-Line 101: 11.b3!? - a very ra]

(Diagram)



16.Nc3 Bd7 17.Qd2 Re8 18.h3 -0.10/21

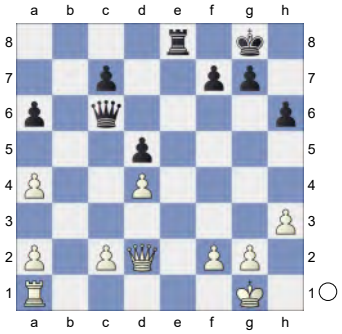
[⌓18.bxa4 0.21/20 Qc6 19.f3]

18...h6 19.Nxa4 Nc5 is the strong threat.

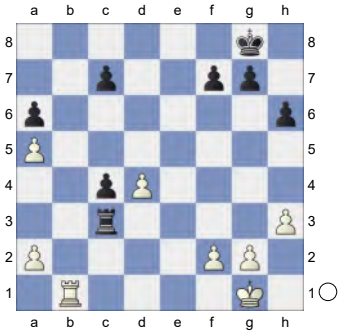
[19.bxa4 looks sharper. Qg6 20.Nxd5 Bxh3! 21.Nf4]

[19.bxa4 seems wilder. Qg6 20.Nxd5 Bxh3 21.Nf4]

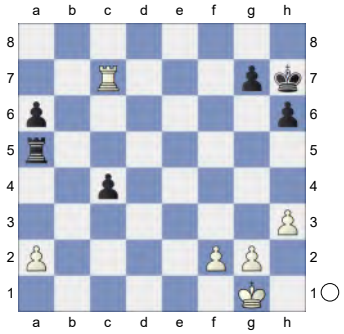
19...Bxa4 20.bxa4= Endgame KQR-KQR **20...Qc6**



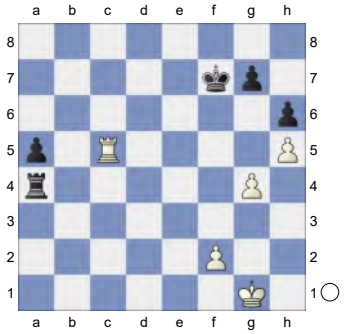
21.a5 Qc4 22.Qd3 Re2 23.Qxc4 dxc4 KR-KR **24.c3 Rc2 25.Rb1 Rxc3**



26.Rb8+ Kh7 27.Rb7 Rd3 28.Rxc7 Rxd4 29.Rxf7 Rd5 30.Rc7 Against Rc5. Inhibits Rc5. **30...Rxa5**

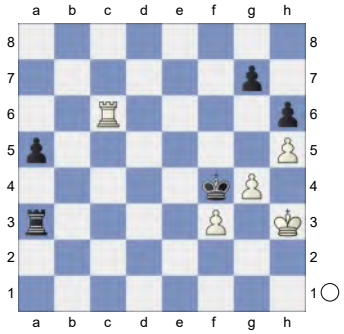


31.Rxc4 Rxa2 32.Rc5 a5 33.h4 Kg6 34.h5+ Kf7 35.g4 0.01/26
[35.Rc7+± 0.60/22 Kf6 36.Rc6+ Kg5 37.Rg6+ Kh4 38.Rxg7]
35...Ra4

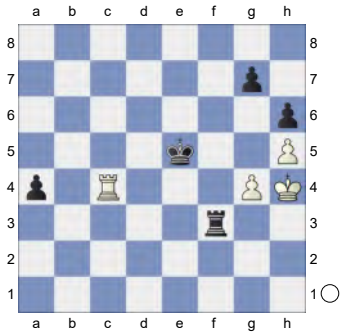


36.Rc7+ 0.01/27
[Better is 36.Rf5+± 0.58/24 Ke6 37.f4]
36...Kf6 The position is equal. **37.Rc6+** -0.30/28
[⌓37.f3 0.01/28]
37...Kg5! 38.f3 Kf4 -0.01/26
[38...Ra2∓ -0.40/26 And now ...a4 would win. 39.Rg6+ Kh4 Hoping for ...a4. 40.Rxg7 a4 *(40...Kg3!? 41.Kf1 Kxf3=)*]
39.Kg2 The position is equal. **39...Ra2+ 40.Kh3 Ra3**

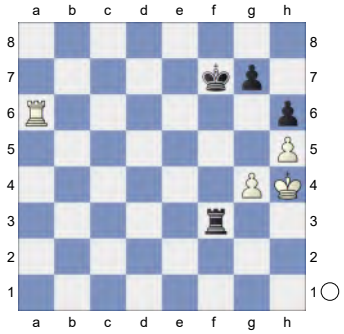
(Diagram)



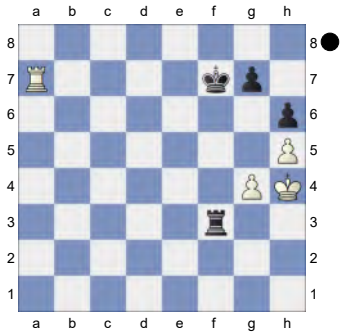
41.Rc7 Black must now prevent Rf7+.
41...Rxf3+ 42.Kh4 a4 43.Rc4+ Ke5



Strongly threatening ...a3. **44.Rxa4 Kf6 45.Ra6+ Kf7**



46.Ra7+ Kf6 47.Ra6+ Kf7 48.Ra7+

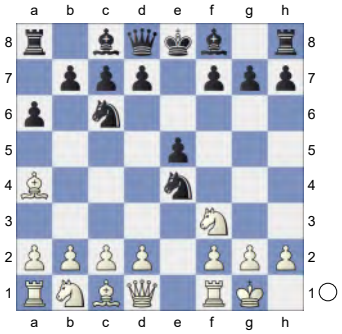


Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless) .

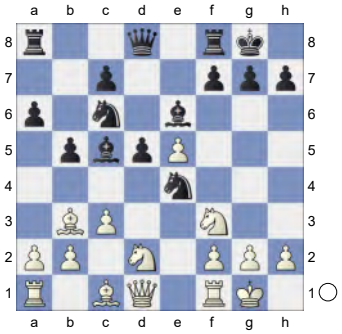
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

7 **C82**
□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2722**
■ **Deac,Bogdan Daniel** **2668**
Superbet POL Blitz 2025 (15.3) 30.04.25
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

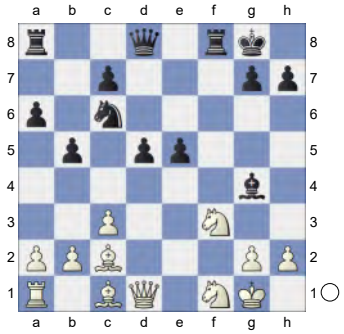


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0



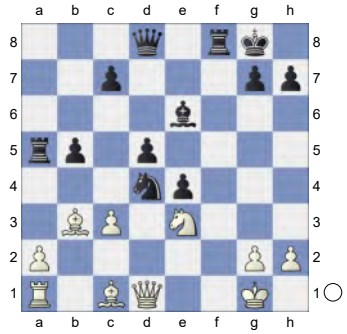
11.Bc2 Nxf2 12.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 13.Kxf2 White has an edge. **13...f6 14.Kg1 fxe5 15.Nf1** And now Bxh7+! would win. **15...Bg4**

(Diagram)

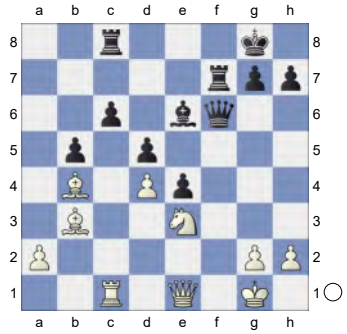


Strongly threatening ...e4. **16.Ne3** White has compensation. **16...Be6 17.b4**
[17.b3 Kh8 18.Ba3 Rf4 19.Bc5 d4 20.cxd4 exd4 21.Qd3 Bg8 22.Nf5 Qd5 23.Ba3 Re8 24.Rd1 Rfe4 25.Ng3 Re3 26.Qd2 R3e6 27.Bb2 Rd8 28.Nxd4 Qc5 29.Ne4 Qe7 30.Qe3 Nxd4 31.Rxd4 Rxd4 Carlsen,M (2862)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2757) Wijk aan Zee NED 2015 [Glenn Flear] ½-½ (51)]
17...a5N 0.62/19
[17...d4= 0.25/18]
[17...h6 18.a4 Qd6 19.Bb2 Ne7 20.Qe1 e4 21.Nd4 Bd7 22.a5 Ng6 23.Nxd5 Rae8 24.Qg3 Re5 25.c4 bxc4 26.Ne3 Nf4 27.Nxc4 Qxd4+ 28.Bxd4 Ne2+ 29.Kh1 Nxg3+ 30.hxg3 Rd5 31.Bc5 Re8 32.Kg1 Nepomniachtchi,I (2782)-Tabatabaei, M (2551) Almaty 2022 1-0 (45) Kh8 33.Re1 Bb5 34.Ne3 Rd2 35.Bb3 c6 36.Nf5 Red8 37.Rxe4 Rb2 38.Nd4 Rb1+ 39.Kh2 Bd3 40.Re7 Rb2 41.Be6 Bf1 42.Bh3 Rf8 43.Nxc6 Rc2 44.Re1 Bb5 45.Bxf8 1-0 (45) Panov Botvinnik Attack (2782)-Uzhva, A (2551) Merida 2022 MAINB (21) [John Watson]]
18.bxa5!± Rxa5 19.Bb3 e4 20.Nd4 Nxd4

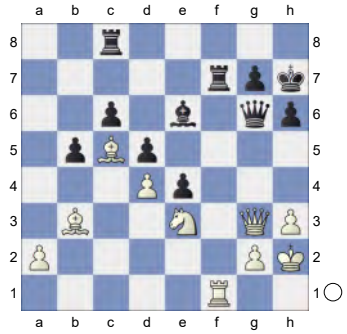
(Diagram)



21.cxd4 0.12/21
[21.Qxd4± 0.66/22 c6 22.Nc2]
21...c6 0.47/21
[21...Qf6= 0.12/21 feels stronger.]
22.Bd2 Ra8 23.Bb4 Rf7 24.Rc1 Rc8 25.Qe1 Qf6

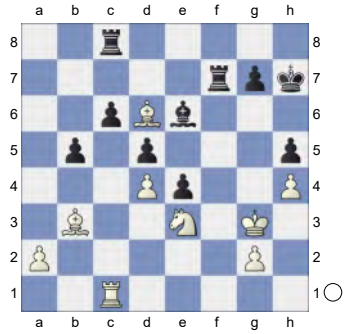


26.Bc5 h6 27.Qg3 Kh7 28.h3 Qf4 29.Kh2 Qf6 30.Rf1 &Bianco is more active. **30...Qg6**

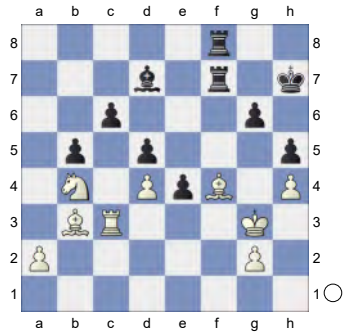


31.Qxg6+ Kxg6 32.Rc1 h5 33.Kg3 Kg5 34.h4+ Kg6 35.Bd6 0.65/23
[35.a4± 0.99/23]
35...Kh7 1.44/22
[Black should play 35...Bd7!± 0.65/23]

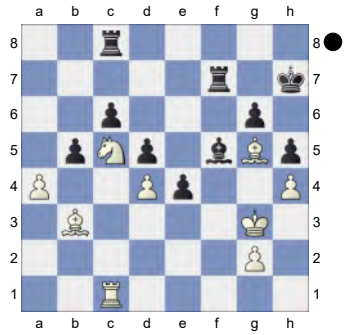
(Diagram)



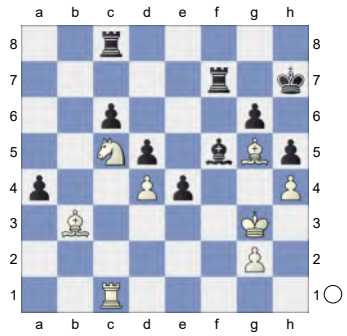
36.Bf4 0.76/22
[Better is 36.a4 1.44/22]
36...g6 1.37/22
[⌓36...Ra7 0.76/22]
37.Rc5 Kg8 1.63/23
[37...Ra7± 1.10/23]
38.Nc2 1.21/21
[38.a4+- 1.63/23]
38...Kh7 39.Nb4 Bd7 40.Rc3 Rcf8



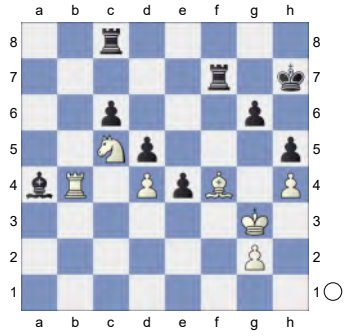
41.Bg5 Rc8 42.Rc1 Kg7 43.Na6 Kh7 1.77/22
[43...Bg4± 1.13/21]
44.Nc5+- Black must now prevent Nxe4!
44...Bf5 45.a4



Hoping for axb5. **45...bxa4** 1.74/25
[45...b4± 1.40/20 was necessary.]

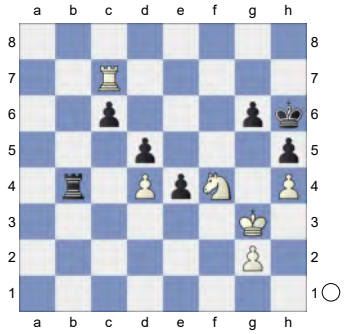


46.Bxa4 Bg4 47.Rc3 1.24/22
[47.Rb1+- 1.94/24]
47...Ra7 2.53/22
[47...Be2± 1.24/22]
48.Bf4? 0.98/22 A strong pair of Bishops.
[48.Kf4+- 2.53/22 is more deadly.]
48...Rf7 1.82/22
[48...Be2± 0.98/22]
49.Rb3 1.17/25
[White should try 49.Re3+- 1.82/22]
49...Bd1± 50.Rb4 Bxa4

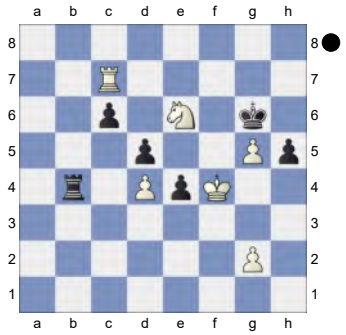


51.Rxa4 Rcf8? 3.15/23
[51...Re8± 0.98/23]
52.Ne6+- Rxf4 53.Nxf4 KRN-KR
53...Rb8? 6.69/22
[53...Rf6 3.65/23 54.Nh3 Kg8]
54.Ra7+ Kh6 55.Rc7 Rb4 11.69/24
[⌓55...Rb3+ 4.44/22 56.Kh2 Rc3 57.Nxd5 Rc4]

(Diagram)



56.Ne6 Ng5 would kill now. **56...g5 57.hxg5+ Kg6 58.Kf4**

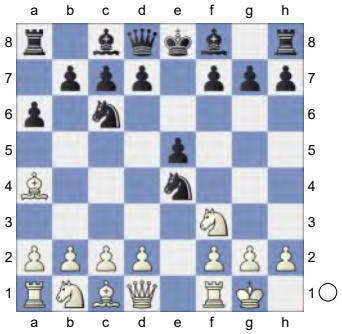


Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.54
1-0

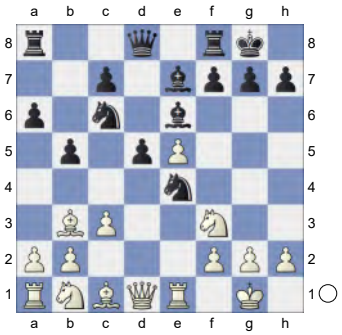
8 **C83**
□ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu** **2741**
■ **Wei,Yi** **2751**
87th Tata Steel Masters (6.5) 24.01.2025
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
C83: Partie espagnole (défense ouverte, variante principale)
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0



11.h3 Qd7 12.Be3N

[12.Nbd2 Nc5 13.Bc2 d4 14.cxd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Qxd4 16.Qh5 Nd3 *(16...g6 17.Qe2 Rad8 18.Nf3 Qc4* Delizia,C-8. ♕c4 ♕d5_65623 Soviet Union 2013 CCYB ?? [Lippstreu]*)* 17.Bxd3 Qxd3 18.Ne4 Rad8 19.Bf4 c5 20.Re3 Qd4 21.Rae1 Bd5 22.Bg5 Bxg5 23.Nxg5 h6 24.Rg3 hxg5 25.Qxg5 g6 26.Rg4 Be6 Bologan,V-Fressinet,L Corte 2005 [LesEchecs.com] 1-0 (61)]

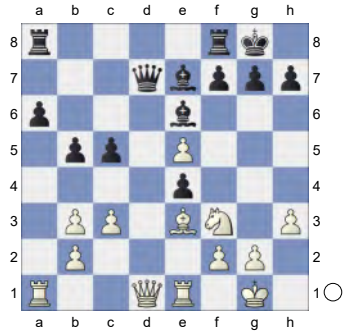
[12.Bc2 Rad8 13.Nbd2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Bf5 15.Bxf5 Qxf5 16.Qf4 Qxf4 17.Bxf4 d4 18.Rac1 dxc3 19.Rxc3 Nb4 20.Rxc7 Rfe8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.Nxg5 f6 23.Nf7 Rd2 24.e6 h5 25.Re4 Nxa2 26.Rc6 Rd5 Carlsen,M (2830)-Caruana,F (2794) Toronto 2023 1-0 (36)]

12...Na5 13.Nbd2 The position is equal.

13...Nxb3 14.axb3 c5 0.73/21 Inhibits b4.

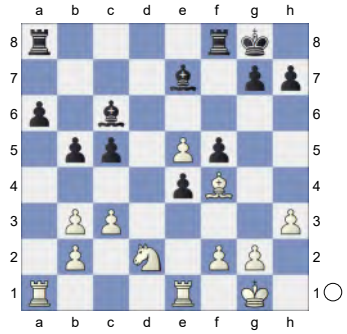
[14...Nxd2= 0.14/20 15.Qxd2 a5]

15.Nxe4!± dxe4

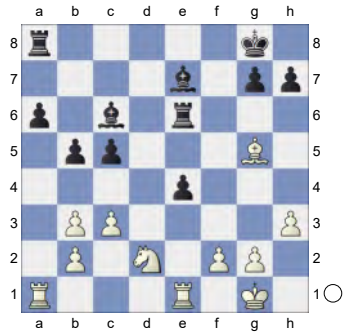


16.Qxd7 Bxd7 17.Nd2 Bc6 18.Bf4 f5 0.72/22

[18...Bd5± 0.41/20]

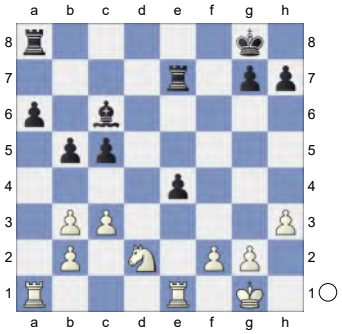


19.exf6! Rxf6 20.Bg5 Re6

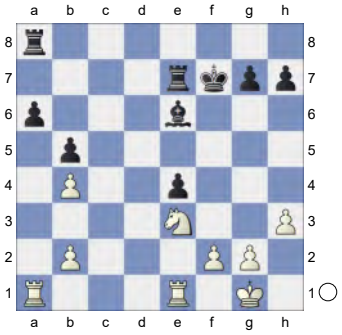


21.Bxe7 Rxe7

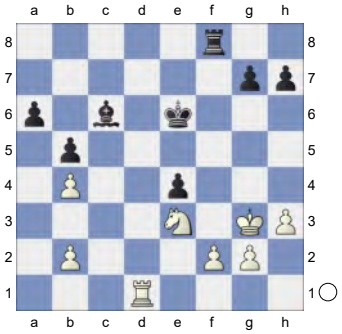
(Diagram)



22.b4 0.27/22
[22.f3!± 0.83/20]
22...cxb4= 23.cxb4 Bd5 24.Nf1 Kf7 25.Ne3 Be6
[25...Bb7 with more complications. 26.Rad1 Ke6 27.f4 g6]

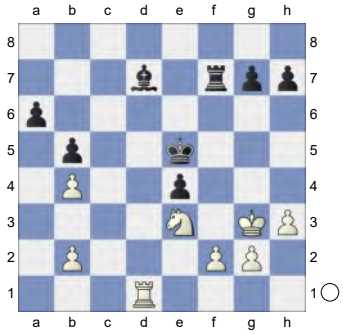


26.Red1 Rd7 Inhibits Rd4. **27.Rxd7+ Bxd7** Endgame KRB-KRN **28.Rd1 Ke6 29.Kh2 Rf8 30.Kg3 Bc6**

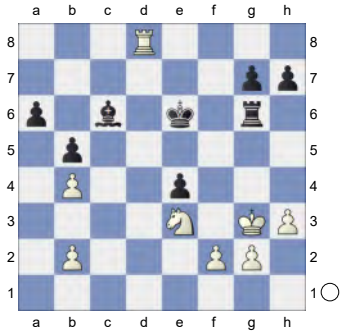


31.Rc1 Kd6 32.Rc5 And now Nf5+ would win. **32...Bd7** Against Nf5+ **33.Rg5 Rf7 34.Rd5+ Ke6 35.Rd1 Ke5!**

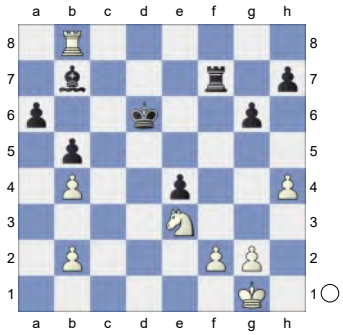
(Diagram)



36.Rc1 Rf6 37.Rc5+ Kd6! 38.Rd5+ Ke6 39.Rd4 0.01/23
[39.Rg5± 0.32/22]
39...Bc6 40.Rd8 Rg6+ 0.32/23
[40...h5= 0.01/21 is superior.]

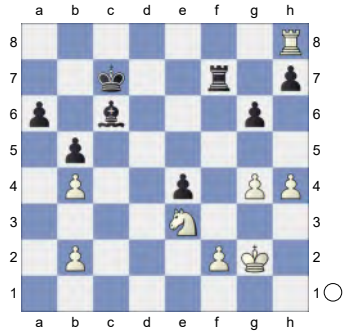


41.Kh2!± Rf6 42.Kg1 Rf7 43.Rc8 Bb7 44.Rb8 Kd6 45.h4 g6

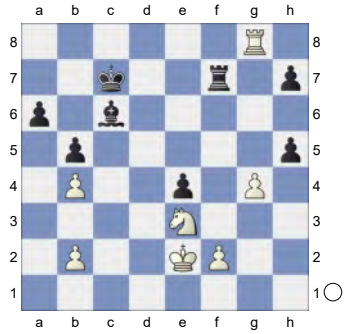


46.Rg8 Ke7 47.g4 Bc6 48.Kg2 Kd6 49.Rc8 Kd7 50.Rh8 Kc7 0.38/25
[50...Ke6= 0.07/25 deserves consideration.]

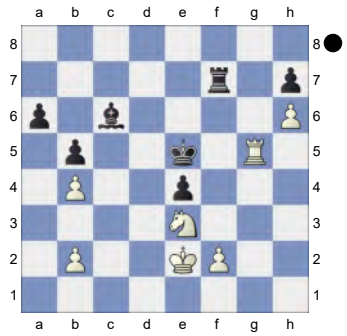
(Diagram)



51.Kg1 0.01/24
[51.h5± 0.38/25 feels stronger.]
51...Kd7 52.Kf1 Kc7 53.Rg8 Kd7 0.37/25
[53...Kb6= 0.01/21]
54.Ke2 Kc7 55.h5 gxh5



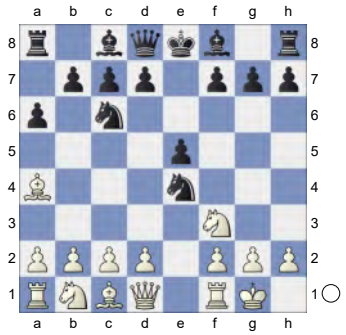
56.gxh5 Kd6 0.53/23
[56...Bd7= 0.20/22]
57.h6! Ke5 58.Rg5+ 0.01/23
[White should play 58.Ng4+± 0.56/22 Ke6 59.Rg7]



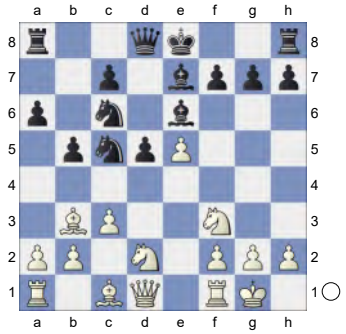
Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

9 **C83**
□ **Mayhem23111** **3085**
■ **Patriciabot** **2859**
Rapid 31.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 10min+2sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
Mikhalevski, V: 'As I promised last month I include the following game in the current update.' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

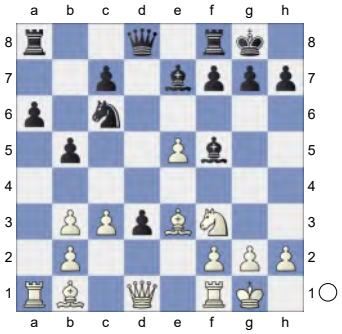


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

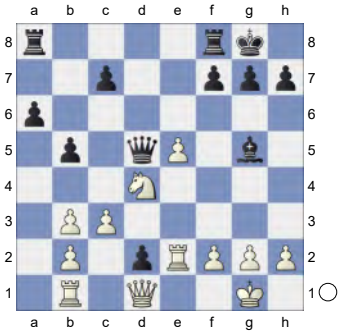


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3! 14.axb3 White has an edge. **14...Bf5 15.Be3 0-0**

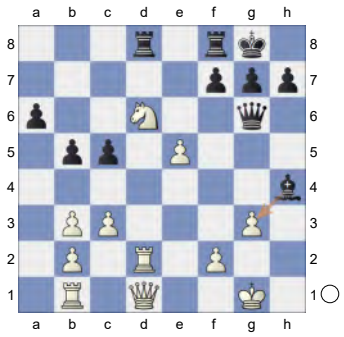
(Diagram)



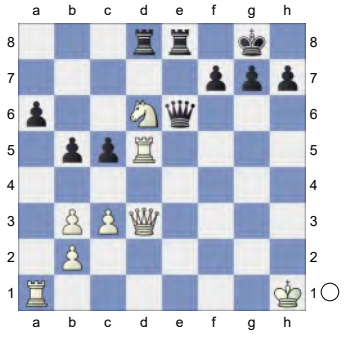
16.Bd4 Qd5
[16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 *(17.cxd4 c5=)* 17...Bg6 18.b4± *(18.Bxd3 Bxd3 19.Nc6 Qe8±)*]
17.Re1 d2 18.Re2 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Bxb1 20.Rxb1 Bg5



21.g3 c5 22.Nf5 Qd3 23.Nd6 Qg6! 24.h4 Bxh4 25.Rxd2 Rad8N
[25...Be7 26.Rd5 *(26.Ra1 Qe6 27.Rd5 f6 28.Rxc5 fxe5 29.Qd5 Qxd5 30.Rxd5 Rfd8 31.Nf5 Kf7 32.Nxe7 Kxe7 33.Rxe5+ Kf6 34.Rae1 Rd6 35.Kg2 Ra7 36.b4 Rad7 37.R1e2 Rc6 38.g4 h6 39.f3 Kf7 40.Kg3 g5* Zanan,E (2521)-Mikhalevski,V (2579) Maalot-Tarshiha 2018 [Mikhalevski,V] ½-½ (64) *)* 26...f6 27.e6 f5 28.Qd3 Qxe6 29.Nxf5 Bf6 *(29...Rad8 30.Qe3 Qxe3 31.Nxe3 Rxd5 32.Nxd5 Bd8 33.f4 Kf7 34.Kg2 Re8 35.Kf3 Re6 36.g4 Rd6 37.Rd1 h6 38.f5 g6 39.fxg6+ Kg7 40.Ke4 Bg5 41.Ke5 Rc6 42.Rf1 Rxg6 43.Nc7 Be7 44.Ne6+* Caruana,F (2767)-L'Ami,E (2611) Reykjavik ISL 2012 [Mikhalevski, V] 1-0 (58) *)* 30.Rd1 Rad8 31.Qe3 Qxe3 32.Nxe3 Rxd5 33.Nxd5 b4 34.Ra1 Rb8 35.cxb4 Bxb2 36.Ra2 Bd4 37.Rxa6 Kf7 38.bxc5 Rxb3 39.c6 Rxg3+ 40.Kf1 Bruzon Batista,L (2669)-Ivanchuk,V (2739) Havana 2005 CBM 107 [Hazai] ½-½ (60) Rf3 41.Ra2 Ke6 42.Nc7+ Kf7 43.Nb5 Be5 44.c7 Bxc7 45.Nxc7 g5 46.Ra7 g4 47.Kg2 h5 48.Nd5+ Kg6 49.Ne3 Kg5 50.Ra5+ Kg6 51.Re5 Rf4 52.Kg1 Ra4 53.Ng2 Kh6 54.Nh4 Ra1+ 55.Kg2 Bruzon Batista,L (2689)-Mikhalevski,V (2552) Arlington 2013 CBM 183 [Marin,Mihail] 1-0 (60)]



26.Ra1 Bxg3 27.fxg3 Qxg3+ 28.Kh1 Qxe5 29.Rd5! Qe6 30.Qd3 Inhibits f5.
30...Rfe8



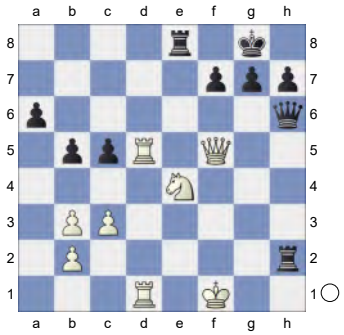
...Qh6+ is the strong threat. **31.Rd1**
[31.Rxa6? Qe1+ 32.Kg2 Re2+ 33.Qxe2 Qxe2+-+]
31...Qh6+ 32.Kg2! Re3 33.Qf5 Inhibits Qh3+. **33...Re2+**

[33...Qh4 34.Qxf7+ Kh8 35.Qxg7+!! *(35.Qf2? Qh3+ 36.Kg1 Rg3+ 37.Qxg3 Qxg3+-+)* 35...Kxg7 36.Nf5+ Kf7 37.Nxh4±]

34.Kf1! Rh2

[34...Qh2? 35.Qxf7+ Kh8 36.Qf3+-]

35.Ne4 Re8



36.Re5!→ White mounts an attack.

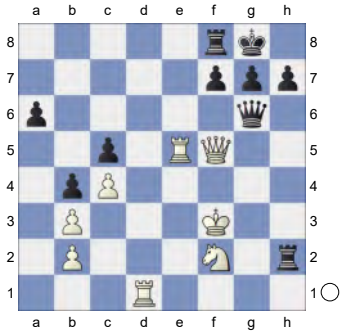
36...Rh1+ 37.Kf2 0.29/21

[37.Ke2± 0.66/23 was preferrable. Qh2+ 38.Ke3 *(38.Kf3 Rf8±)*]

37...Rh2+= 38.Kf3 Dancing on a razor blade. **38...Rf8**

[Less strong is 38...Rh3+ 39.Ng3 Qc6+ 40.Qe4 Qxe4+ 41.Rxe4± *(41.Kxe4 Rxe5+ 42.Kxe5 f6+ 43.Ke6 h5±)*]

39.Nf2 b4 40.c4 Qg6

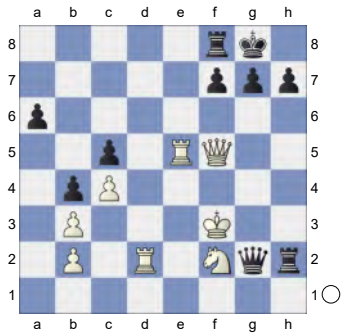


Against Rg1. Threatens to win with ...f6.

41.Rd2 Strongly threatening Qxg6. Active counter play! **41...Qg2+**

[Not 41...f6 42.Rxc5 Qg2+ 43.Ke2±]

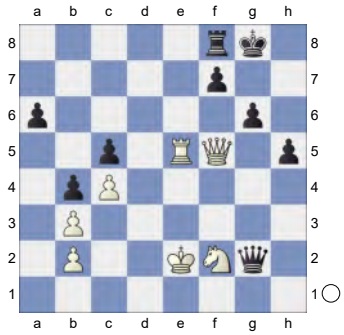
(Diagram)



42.Ke2! Rh1 1.24/21

[⌓42...Qg1 0.71/21]

43.Rd1± Rxd1 44.Kxd1 h5 45.Ke2 g6



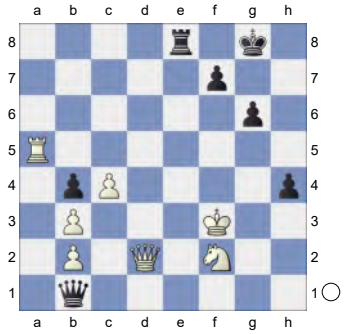
46.Qf4 Qg1 47.Rxc5 Qb1 2.06/21 Loses the game.

[47...Re8+± 0.73/21 48.Re5 Rxe5+ 49.Qxe5 Qc1]

48.Qd2+- Re8+ 49.Kf3 a5 3.08/23

[49...h4 1.95/20 is a better defense. 50.Rd5 Qg1]

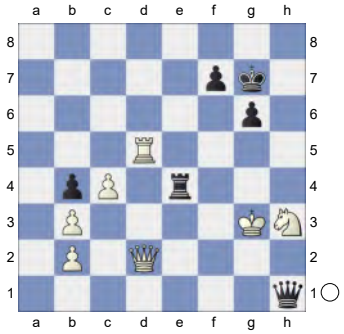
50.Rxa5 h4



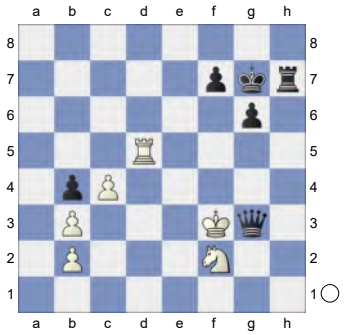
51.Rd5 Qg1 52.Qf4 Inhibits Qg3+.

52...h3 53.Nxh3 Qh1+ 54.Kg3 Re4 55.Qd2 Kg7

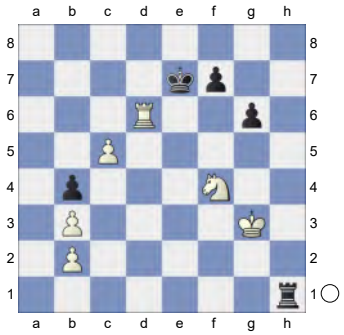
(Diagram)



56.Nf2 Qg1+ 57.Kf3 Rh4 58.Qe3 Threatening mate with Qe5+. **58...Qh2 59.Qg5 Rh7 60.Qg3 Qxg3+**

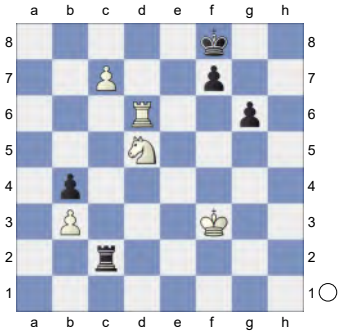


61.Kxg3 Endgame KRN-KR **61...Kf6 62.Nd3 Ke6 63.Nf4+ Ke7 64.c5 Rh8 65.Rd6** Nd5+ would kill now. **65...Rh1**

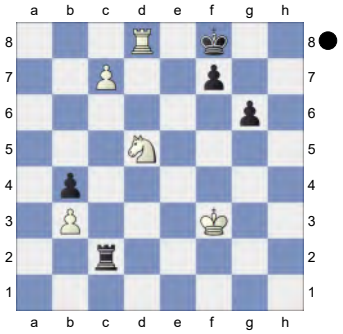


66.Nd5+ Kf8 67.c6 Intending c7 and mate. **67...Rg1+ 68.Kf2 Rb1 69.c7 Rxb2+ 70.Kf3 Rc2**

(Diagram)



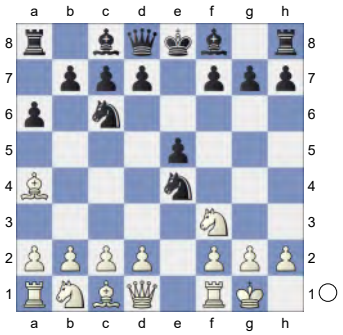
71.Rd8+



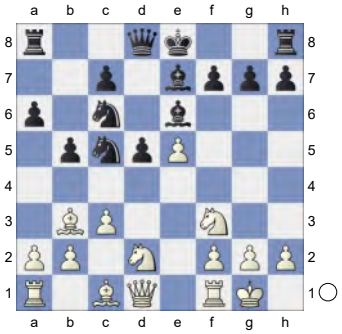
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.15 (very precise)
1-0

10 **C83**
□ **Asliceofpi** **2926**
■ **Bulettenkarl1** **3025**
Blitz 31.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

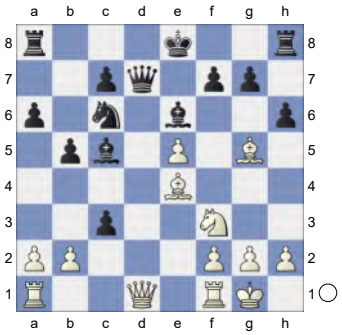
Blitz 3min+1sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

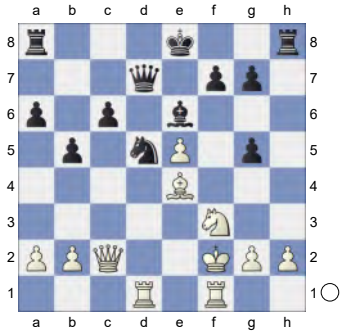


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 dxc3 13.Nxc5 Bxc5 14.Be4 White has an edge. **14...Qd7 15.Bg5** -0.15/20
[White should play 15.Qxd7+± 0.38/19 Bxd7 16.bxc3]
15...h6 0.44/20
[15...cxb2= -0.15/20 16.Rb1 Rb8]

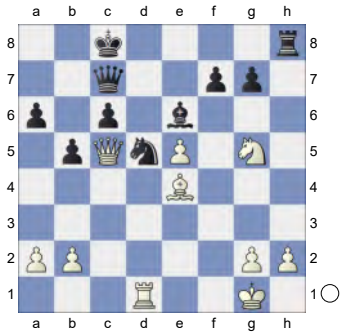


16.Qc2!± hxg5 17.Rad1 Nb4 18.Qxc3 Bxf2+ 19.Kxf2 Nd5 20.Qc2N
[20.Qc5!? c6 21.Kg1= *(21.Nxg5 Rh5 22.Nf3 Qa7 23.Rc1 Ne7 24.b3 Qxc5+ 25.Rxc5 Rc8 26.Rfc1 Kd7 27.R5c3 Bg4 28.Re3* 10. Ruy Lopez Open (4.Ba4 Nf6-Open 10...Nc5 Mainline #13 *)*]
20...c6

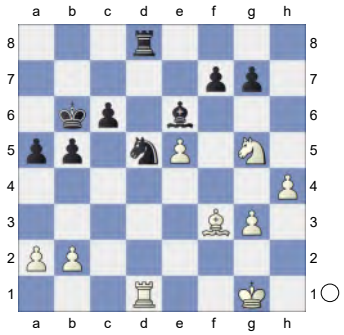
(Diagram)



21.Kg1 0-0-0 22.Nxg5 Qc7 23.Rfe1 Prevents Ne3. **23...Nb4 24.Qc5 Rxd1 25.Rxd1** Chess con chili. **25...Nd5**

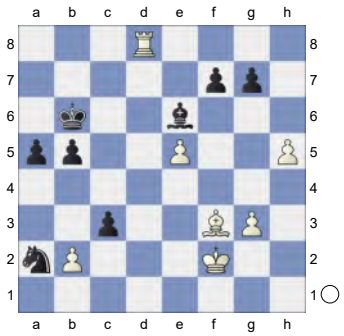


26.g3
[Much worse is 26.Bxd5 Bxd5 27.Re1 Kb8∓]
[26.Nxe6 fxe6 27.Rc1 Kb7=]
[26.Qc1 is more complex. g6 27.Nxe6 fxe6 28.Bxd5 cxd5 29.Qf4]
26...Rd8 27.Bf3 Kb7 28.Qd4 Qb6
[28...c5 is interesting. 29.Qe4 c4 30.Qd4 Kc8]
29.Qxb6+ Kxb6 30.h4 a5

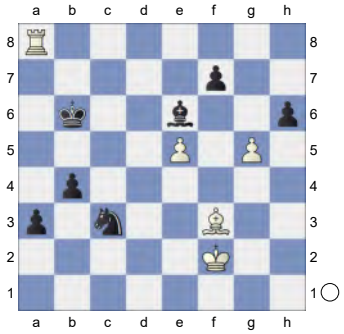


31.Kf2 c5 32.Ne4 -0.01/21
[32.Nxe6± 0.51/20 fxe6 33.Bg4]
32...c4= 33.Nc3 Nxc3 34.Rxd8 Nxa2

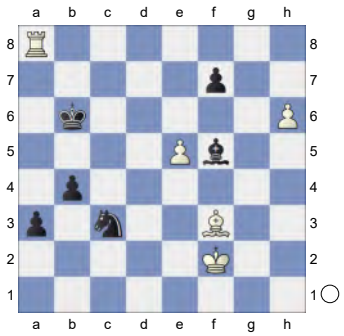
Endgame KRB-KBN **35.h5 c3**



36.bxc3 Nxc3 37.g4 a4! 38.Ra8! g5 is the strong threat. **38...b4 39.g5 a3 40.h6 gxh6**

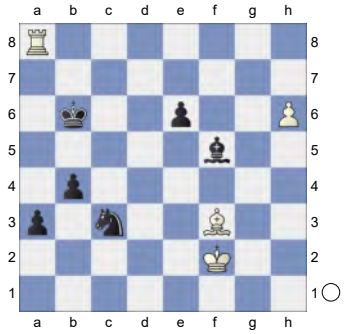


41.gxh6 Bf5 42.Bh5 Kb7! 43.Ra5
[43.e6!? fxe6 44.Bf3+ Kb6 45.Bg4=]
43...Kb6⇄ Black has counterplay **44.Ra8 Kb7! 45.Bf3+**
[45.e6!? fxe6 46.Bf3+ Kb6 47.Bg4=]
45...Kb6!

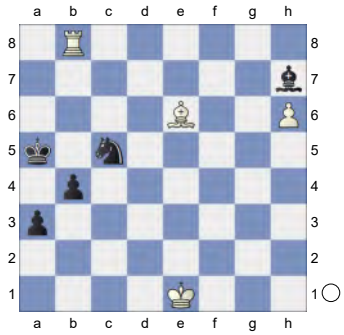


46.e6 fxe6

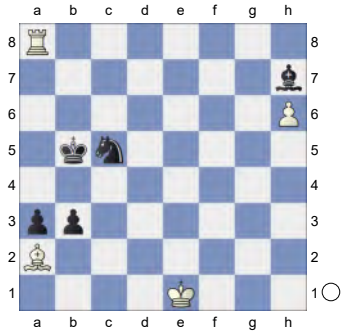
(Diagram)



47.Bg4! Black must now prevent Bxf5.
47...Ne4+
[47...Bxg4? 48.h7+-]
[47...Bc2 48.Bxe6]
48.Ke1 And now Bxf5 would win.
48...Bh7
[48...Bxg4? 49.h7 Kc5 50.h8Q+-]
49.Rb8+ Ka5 50.Bxe6 Threatens to win with Rb7. White is slightly better.
50...Nc5

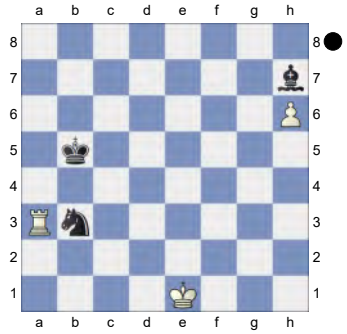


Inhibits Rb7. **51.Ra8+ Kb5 52.Ba2 b3**



53.Bxb3! Nxb3 54.Rxa3

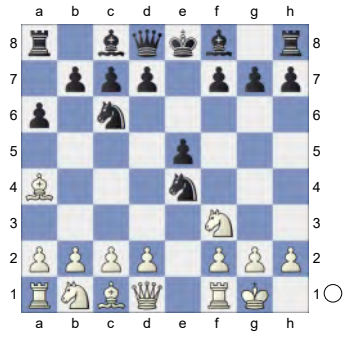
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

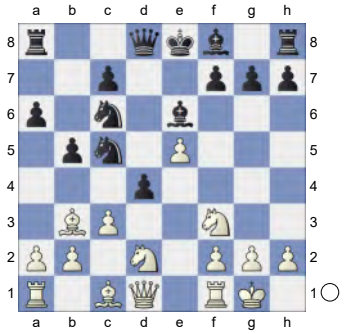
11 **C80**
□ **Mayhem23111** **3074**
■ **Raspfish** **3045**
Rapid 30.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 10min+2sec
C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

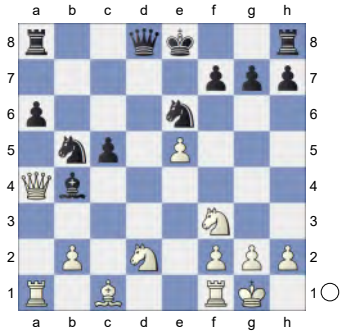


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 d4

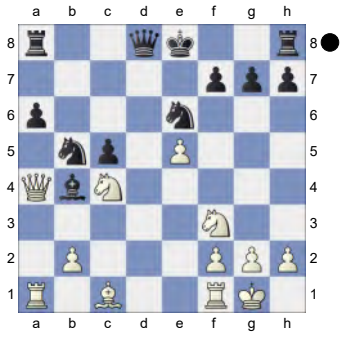
(Diagram)



11.Bxe6 Nxe6 12.cxd4 Ncxd4 13.a4 Black must now prevent Nxd4. **13...Bb4 14.axb5 Nxb5**
[14...axb5? 15.Rxa8 Qxa8 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qg4±]
15.Qa4 c5



White has an edge. **16.Nc4**



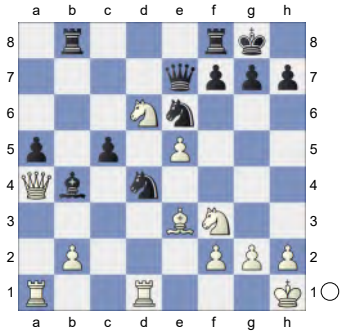
Strongly threatening Rd1. **16...0-0 17.Be3 Rb8 18.Rfd1** Inhibits Qd5.
[18.Qd1 Qc8 19.Nd6 Nxd6 20.exd6 c4 21.d7 Qb7 22.Qa4 Bc5 23.Ng5 Bxe3 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.fxe3 Rfd8 26.Qxc4 Qxd7 27.Rxa6 Qd5 28.Qxd5 exd5 29.Rf2 Rb3 30.Re6 Rdb8 31.Re5 Rxb2 32.Rxb2 Rxb2
Grube,J (2764)-Persse,D (2728)

Cheliabinsk 2022 ICCF Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] ½-½ (92)]

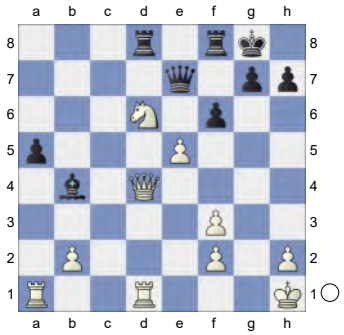
18...Nbd4 19.Kh1N

[19.Bxd4 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 cxd4 21.Qxa6 Qd5 22.Nb6 Qe6 23.Nc4 Qd5 24.Nb6 Qc6 25.Nc4 Qd5 26.Nb6 1-0 (26) Djukic,N (2493)-Draskovic,L (2153) Gori 2011 CI1-130 [Djukic,Nikola]]

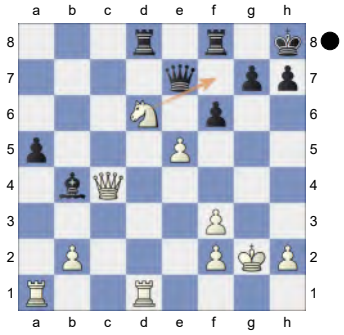
19...a5 20.Nd6 Qe7



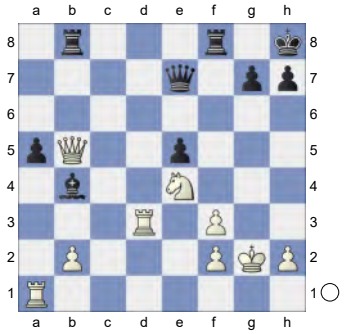
21.Qa2 Rbd8 22.Qc4 Nxf3 23.gxf3 Nd4 24.Bxd4 cxd4 25.Qxd4 f6



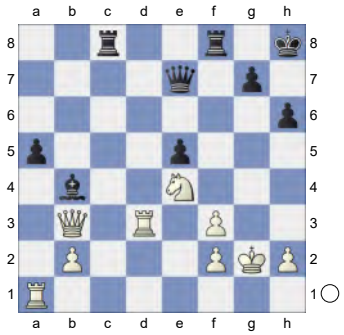
26.Qc4+ Kh8 27.Kg2



Threatens to win with Nf7+! **27...Rb8 28.Rd3 fxe5 29.Ne4 Rbc8 30.Qb5 Rb8**



31.Qa6 Ra8 32.Qc6 Rac8 33.Qa6 Ra8 34.Qc4 Rac8 35.Qb3 h6



36.Rg1 -0.44/18

[36.Qd1= -0.08/18]

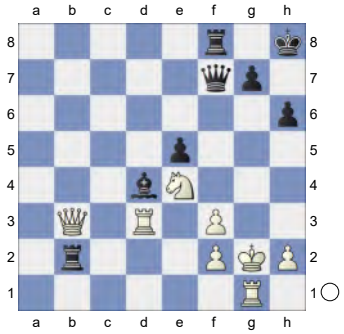
36...Bc5∓ 37.Qb5 Bd4 38.Qxa5 Rc2 0.01/21

[38...Bxb2∓ -0.43/18 was preferrable. 39.Qb6 Bd4]

39.Qa3= The position is equal. **39...Qf7**

40.Qb3⇄ White puts up resistance

40...Rxb2

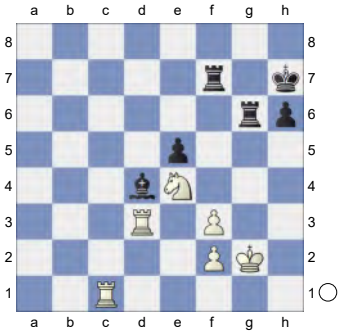


41.Qxf7 Rxf7 42.h4 Rb6 43.Rc1 Kh7

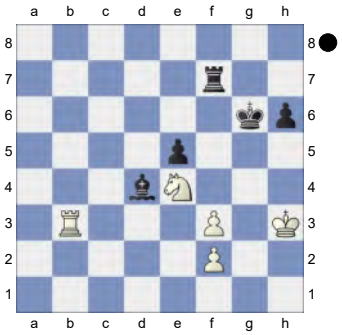
[43...Rf4 is more complex. 44.Kg3 Rf5 45.Rc8+ Kh7]

44.h5 g6 45.hxg6+ Rxg6+

(Diagram)



46.Kh3 Rgg7 47.Rc6 Rg6 Prevents Nf6+. **48.Rxg6 Kxg6 49.Rb3**

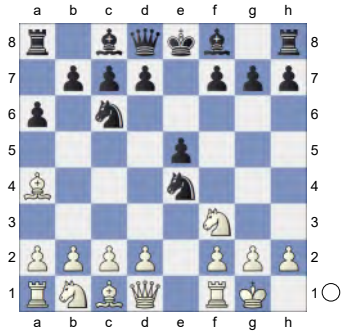


Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
½-½

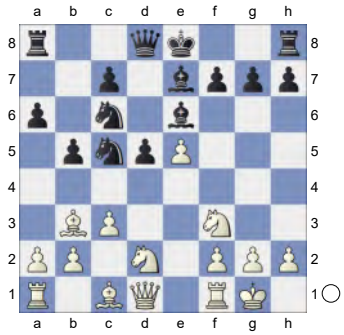
12 **C83**
☐ **Mayhem23111** **3017**
■ **Bulettenkarl1** **3028**
Blitz 30.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min+1sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

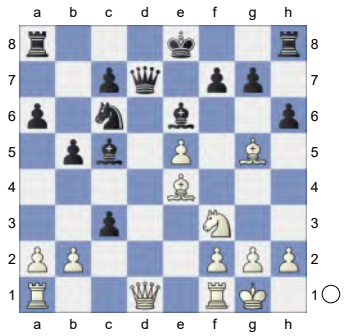
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

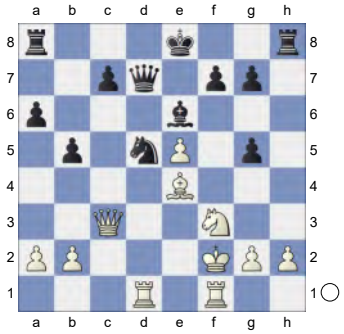


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 dxc3 13.Nxc5 Bxc5 14.Be4 White is slightly better.
14...Qd7 15.Bg5 0.01/21 Inhibits Rd8.
[15.bxc3± 0.35/20 Rd8 16.Qxd7+ Bxd7 17.a4]
15...h6 0.65/22
[15...cxb2= 0.01/21 16.Rb1 Rb8]

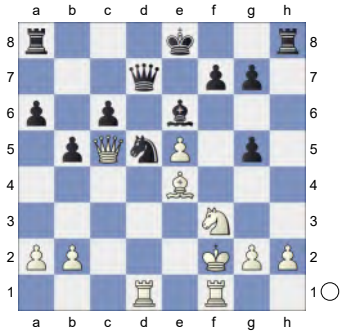


16.Qc2!± hxg5 17.Rad1 0.39/23
[17.Rfd1± 0.78/23 Nb4 18.Qxc3 Bxf2+ 19.Kxf2]
17...Nb4 0.91/21 **18.Qxc3± Bxf2+ 19.Kxf2 Nd5**

(Diagram)



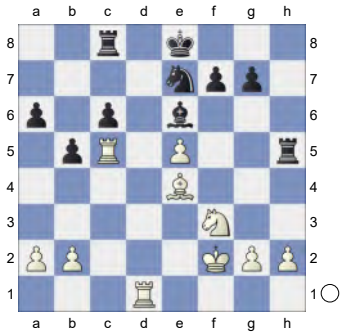
20.Qc5 c6



21.Nxg5 Rh5! 22.Nf3 Qa7 23.Rc1 Ne7 24.Rfd1N

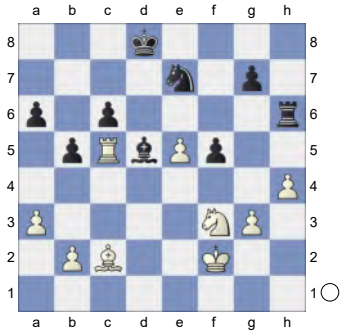
[24.b3 Qxc5+ 25.Rxc5 Rc8 26.Rfc1 Kd7 27.R5c3 Bg4 28.Re3 10. Ruy Lopez Open (4.Ba4 Nf6-Open 10...Nc5 Mainline #13]

24...Qxc5+ 25.Rxc5 Rc8



26.h4 f5 27.Bc2 &Bianco is more active. **27...Rd8 28.g3 Rh6 29.Rxd8+ Kxd8 30.a3 Bd5**

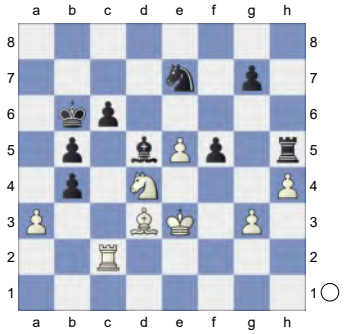
(Diagram)



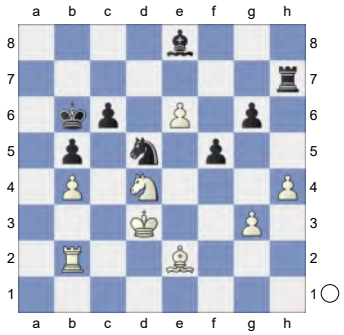
31.Ke3 Kc7 32.Nd4 Rh5 33.b4 Kb6 34.Bd3 a5 35.Rc2 0.01/20

[35.Rc1± 0.58/22]

35...axb4=



36.axb4 Bf7 37.e6 Be8 38.Rb2 g6 39.Be2 Nd5+ 40.Kd3! Rh7



41.Bf3 Hoping for Bxd5. **41...Nc7 42.Rc2**

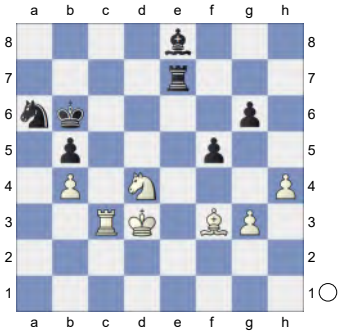
[42.Re2!?]

42...Re7! 43.Nxc6

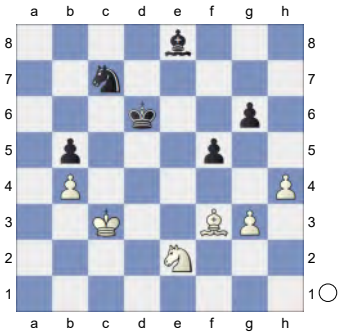
[Much weaker is 43.Bxc6 Na6 44.Bxe8 Nxb4+ 45.Kc3 Nxc2 46.Bxg6 Nxd4 47.Kxd4 Rxe6=]

43...Rxe6 44.Nd4 Re7 45.Rc3 Na6

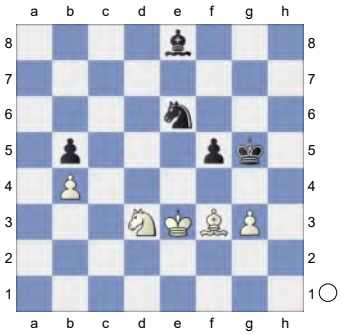
(Diagram)



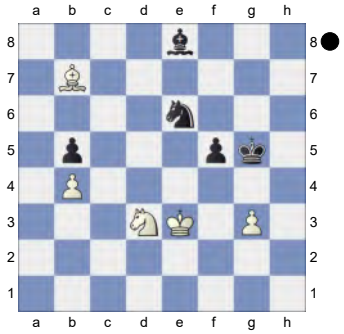
46.Nc2 Rc7 0.51/25
[46...Rd7+= 0.17/25 is more appropriate. 47.Ke3 Rd6]
47.Kd4!± aiming for Rxc7. **47...Rxc3** 0.84/23
[47...Re7± 0.42/24 is superior.]
48.Kxc3 Endgame KBN-KBN **48...Kc7**
49.Nd4 Kd6 50.Ne2 0.01/28
[Better is 50.h5± 0.86/29 gxh5 51.Nxf5+ Ke5 52.Ng7]
50...Nc7



51.Nf4 Ke5 52.Nd3+ Kf6 53.Kd4
The position is equal. **53...Ne6+ 54.Ke3**
[54.Kd5!?]
54...g5 Against Nf4 **55.hxg5+ Kxg5**



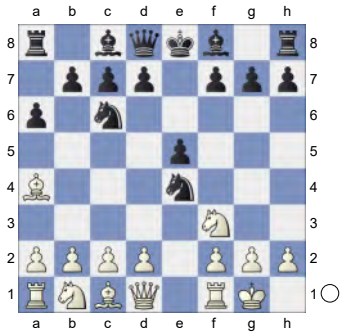
56.Bb7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
½-½

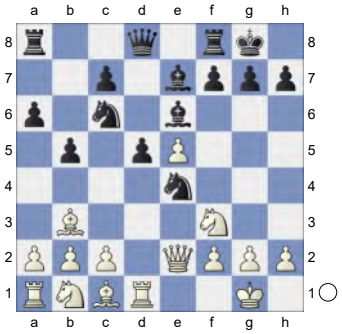
13 **C81**
☐ **Weiawaga** **2782**
■ **Botswana Compute** **3010**
Rapid 30.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 15min
C81: Open Ruy Lopez: Keres Variation (9 Qe2)
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

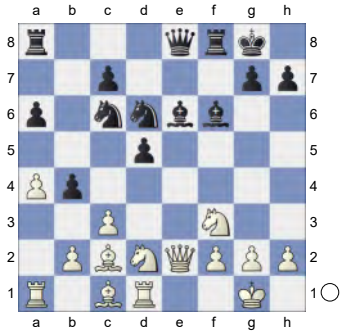


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Qe2 Be7 10.Rd1 0-0

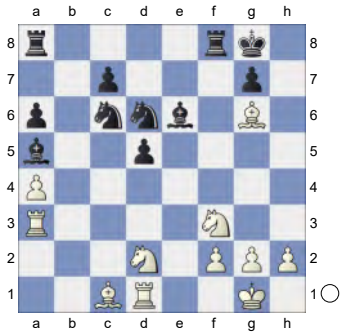
(Diagram)



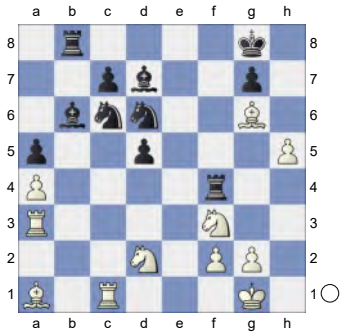
11.c3 f5
[11...Nc5 12.Bc2 Bg4 13.h3 Bh5 14.Nbd2 Re8 15.Nb3 Bf8 16.g4 Bg6 17.Nxc5 Bxc5 18.b4 Bb6 19.Bf4 Qd7 20.Bb3 Ne7 21.a4 c5 22.bxc5 Bxc5 23.Nd4 b4 24.cxb4 Bxb4 25.Rac1 Ba5 26.Nc6 Gukesh,D (2744)-Narayanan,S (2656) Baku 2023 CBM 216 [Giri,Anish] 1-0 (37)]
[11...Qd7 12.Nbd2 Nc5 13.Bc2 f6 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Nb3 Nxb3 16.axb3 Bf5 17.Be3 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Ne5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.b4 c6 21.Bc5 Bd6 22.Bd4 Qc7 23.g3 Be5 24.Qd3 Bxd4 25.Qxd4 a5 26.Rxa5 Volokitin,A (2648)-Bluebaum,M (2646) Walbrzych 2024 ½-½ (75)]
12.exf6! Bxf6N
[12...Rxf6 13.Be3 Na5 14.Bc2 Qe8 15.Ng5 Nxg5 16.Bxg5 Rf7 17.Be3 Qd7 18.Nd2 Bd6 19.b4 Nc6 20.a4 Rb8 21.axb5 axb5 22.Nf3 Bg4 23.Qd3 Bf5 24.Qd2 Bxc2 25.Qxc2 Rxf3 26.gxf3 Ne5 27.Kg2 5. Exercises 3-Viacheslav Ragozin Vs Grigor (34)]
13.a4
[13.Qxe4? dxe4 14.Bxe6+ Kh8 15.Rxd8 Raxd8-+]
13...b4 The position is equal. **14.Bc2**
[14.Qxe4 dxe4 15.Bxe6+ Kh8 16.Rxd8 Raxd8∓]
14...Qe8 15.Nbd2! Nd6



16.Qd3 Qg6 Active counter play!
17.Qxg6 hxg6 18.Bxg6 bxc3 19.bxc3 Bxc3 20.Ra3 Ba5

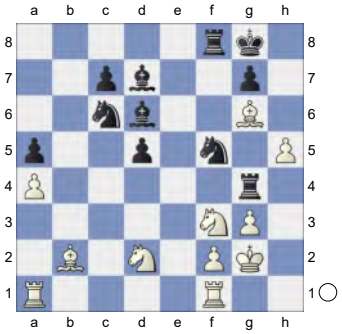


21.Bb2
[21.Ng5!?]
21...Rab8 22.Ba1 Bb6 23.Rc1 Bd7 24.h4 a5 25.h5 Rf4

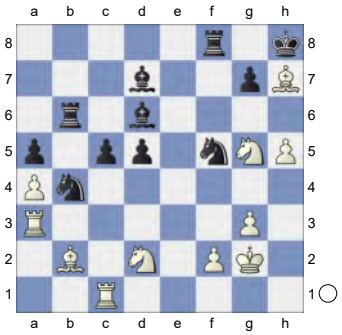


26.g3 Rg4 27.Kg2 Rf8 28.Rf1 Nf5 29.Bb2 Bc5 -0.09/20
[29...Bc8∓ -0.45/19]
30.Raa1!= Bd6

(Diagram)



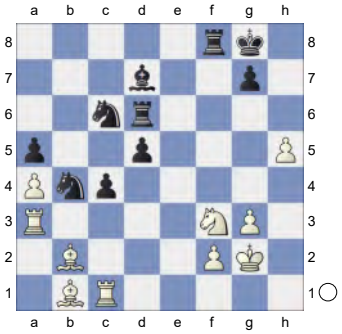
31.Rfc1 Rb4 32.Ra2 Rb6 33.Ng5 Nb4 34.Ra3 c5! 35.Bh7+ Kh8



36.Bg6 c4 Hoping for ...Nd3. **37.Nf7+ Kg8 38.Nxd6 Rxd6 39.Nf3 Ne7**

[Much weaker is 39...Nd3 40.Rxd3! cxd3 41.Ba3 Bxa4 42.Bxd6 *(42.Bxf5 Rxf5 43.Bxd6 Rxf3=)* 42...Nxd6 43.Bxd3=]

40.Bb1 Nec6

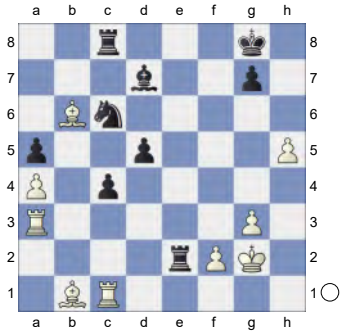


41.Ne5 -0.90/20 Prevents Bg4.

[41.Nh4∓ -0.54/18]

41...Nxe5∓ 42.Bxe5 A strong pair of Bishops. **42...Re6 43.Bd4 Re2 44.Bc5 Rc8↑** Black is in control. **45.Bb6 Nc6**

(Diagram)



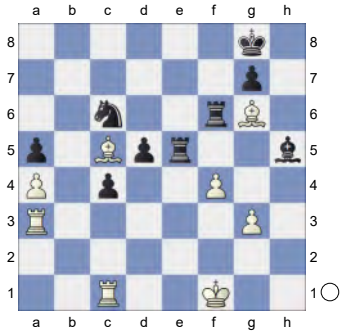
46.Bg6 -1.00/20

[46.Rac3!∓ -0.58/20 feels stronger.]

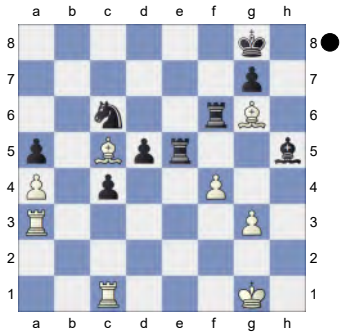
46...Rf8! 47.Kf1 Bg4 48.Bc5 Rf6 49.f3 Re5 ...d4 is the strong threat.

[Stronger than 49...Rxf3+ 50.Rxf3 Bxf3 51.Rc3∓]

50.f4 Bxh5

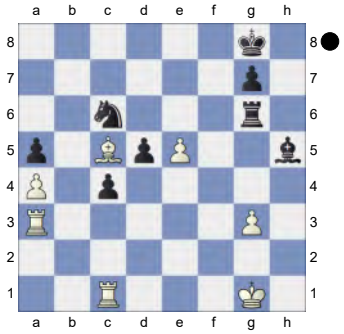


51.Kg1

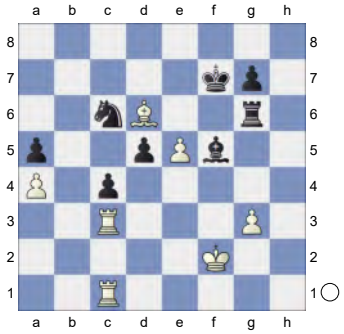


Rxg6! 52.fxe5

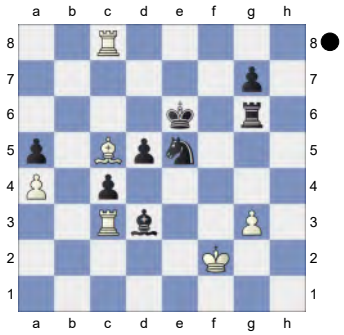
(Diagram)



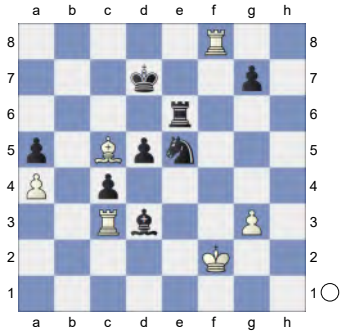
Kf7! 53.Rac3 -1.38/20
[Better is 53.Bd6 -0.77/18]
53...Be2 Threatens to win with ...d4. Black has strong compensation. **54.Kf2 Bd3 55.Bd6 Bf5**



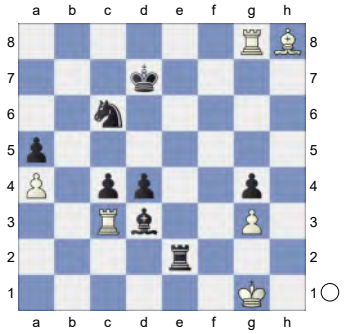
56.Rh1 -1.77/20
[56.Rd1∓ -1.41/18 was called for. Ke6 57.Bc7]
56...Ke6-+ 57.Rh8 Bd3
[Worse is 57...Nxe5 58.Bb8 Nc6 59.Bf4∓]
58.Rc8 Nxe5 59.Bc5 -2.49/20
[59.Bb8∓ -1.43/21 d4 60.Rc1 Rf6+ 61.Kg1 Nf3+ 62.Kg2]



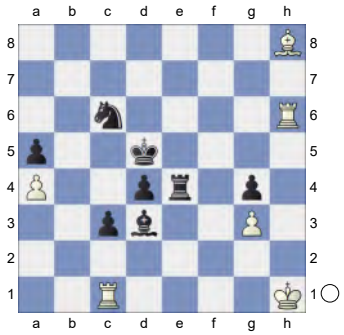
59...Kd7! 60.Rf8 Re6



61.Kg2 g5 62.Rg8 -2.94/19
[62.Ra3 -2.07/17 was worth a try.]
62...g4 63.Bd4 Nc6 64.Bh8 Re2+ 65.Kg1 d4

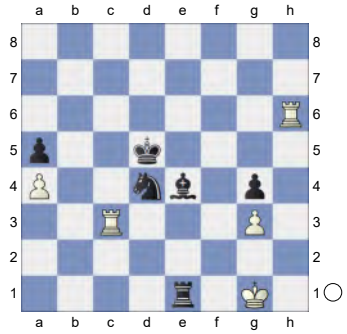


66.Rc1 Inhibits Re1+. **66...Re4 67.Kg2 Kd6 68.Rg6+ Kc5** Strongly threatening ...Re2+. **69.Kh1 Kd5 70.Rh6 c3**

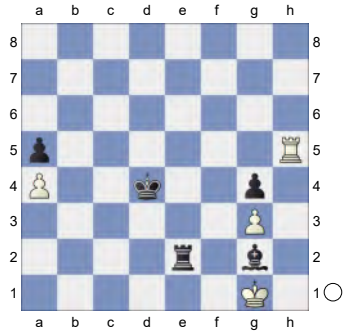


71.Bxd4 Nxd4 72.Rxc3 Re1+ 73.Kg2 Be4+ 74.Kf2 Re2+ 75.Kg1 Re1+? -0.01/5
[75...Bg2-+ -14.10/27 76.Rf6 Nf3+ 77.Rcxf3 Bxf3]

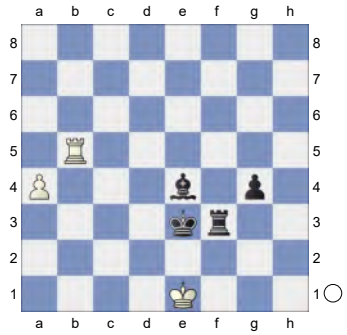
(Diagram)



76.Kf2= Re2+? 0.01/30
[Black should play 76...Ra1-+ -3.74/22 77.Rh8 Ne6]
77.Kg1 Bg2 78.Rh5+ Ke4 (-> ...Nf3+)
79.Rc4 Kd3 80.Rxd4+ Kxd4

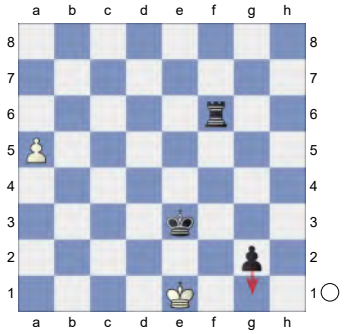


81.Rxa5-+ Endgame KRB-KR **81...Be4 82.Rb5 Rg2+ 83.Kf1 Rxg3 84.Kf2 Rf3+ 85.Ke1 Ke3**

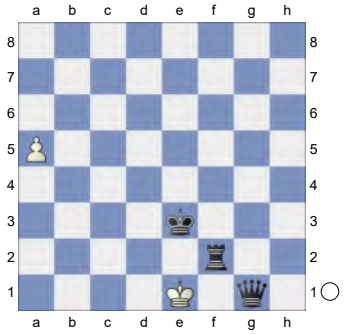


86.a5 Rf6 87.Rb8 g3 88.Re8 g2 89.Rxe4+ Kd3 Black mates. **90.Re3+ Kxe3**

(Diagram)



91.Kd1 Rf2 92.Ke1 g1Q#

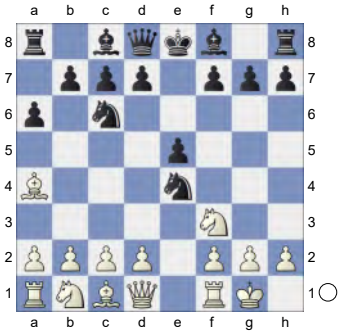


Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
0-1

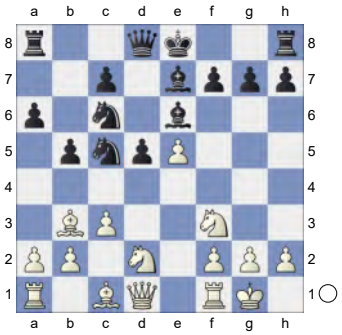
14 **C83**
☐ **Riptorn** **3065**
■ **Botswana Compute** **3009**
Rapid 29.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 12min
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
Mikhalevski, V: 'As I promised last month I include the following game in the current update.' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

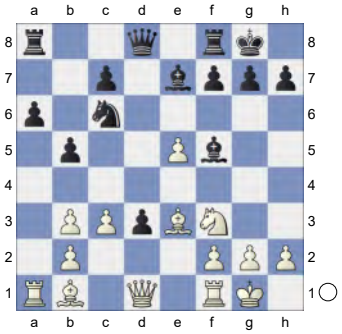
(Diagram)



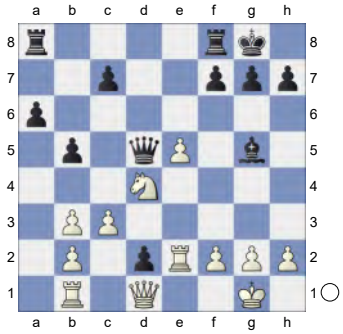
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7



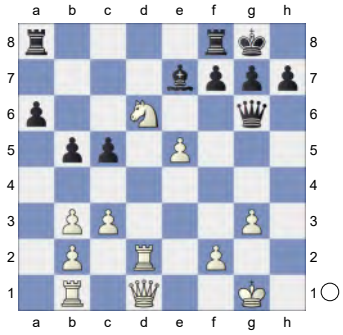
11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 0.23/20
[12.cxd4± 0.55/18 might be stronger. Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Nf3]
12...d3
[12...dxc3 feels hotter. 13.Nxc5 Bxc5 14.Be4 Qd7]
13.Bb1 Nxb3! 14.axb3 White has an edge. **14...Bf5 15.Be3 0-0**



16.Bd4 Qd5
[16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 *(17.cxd4 c5=)* 17...Bg6 18.b4± *(18.Bxd3 Bxd3 19.Nc6 Qe8±)*]
17.Re1 d2 18.Re2 Bxb1 19.Rxb1 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bg5!



21.g3 -0.18/19
[21.Nf3 0.13/19 feels stronger. Bf4 22.Nxd2]
21...c5= 22.Nf5 Qd3 23.Nd6 f4 is the strong threat. **23...Qg6 24.h4 Bxh4 25.Rxd2 Be7** 0.66/19
[25...Rad8 0.31/21 is superior.]



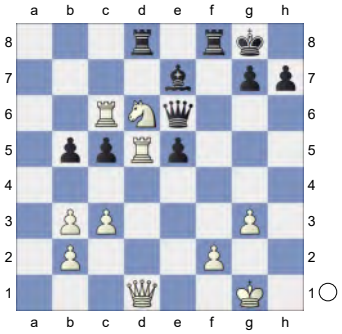
26.Rd5
[26.Qe1 Qe6 27.Qe3 Bxd6 28.Rxd6 Qxb3 29.Qxc5 Qc2 30.Ra1 Bjerre,J (2438)-Kushagra,M (2283) Porto Carras 2018 [Petronijevic, Zoran]]
26...Rad8N 1.10/21
[26...f6± 0.59/19 27.e6 f5 28.Qd3 Qxe6 29.Nxf5 Bf6 *(29...Rad8 30.Qe3 Qxe3 31.Nxe3 Rxd5 32.Nxd5 Bd8 33.f4 Kf7 34.Kg2 Re8 35.Kf3 Re6 36.g4 Rd6 37.Rd1 h6 38.f5 g6 39.fxg6+ Kg7 40.Ke4 Bg5 41.Ke5 Rc6 42.Rf1 Rxg6 43.Nc7 Be7 44.Ne6+* Caruana,F (2781)-Gelfand,B (2761) Zürich SUI 2014 [Smerdon, David] ½-½ (58) *Kg8*

45.Rf4 h5 46.gxh5 Rg2 47.h6 Rxb2 48.Rg4+ Kh8 49.Nf4 Kh7 50.Rg7+ Kxh6 51.Rxe7 Rxb3 52.Nd5 Rb1 53.Kd6 c4 54.Ra7 Ra1 55.Kc5 Kg5 56.Kb6 Rd1 57.Nb4 Rc1 58.Na2 1-0 (58) Caruana,F (2767)-L'Ami,E (2611) Reykjavik ISL 2012 [Mikhalevski, V]*)* 30.Rd1 Rad8 31.Ne3 *(31.Qe3 Qxe3 32.Nxe3 Rxd5 33.Nxd5 b4 34.Ra1 Rb8 35.cxb4 Bxb2 36.Ra2 Bd4 37.Rxa6 Kf7 38.bxc5 Rxb3 39.c6 Rxg3+ 40.Kf1 Rf3 41.Ra2 Ke6 42.Nc7+ Kf7 43.Nb5 Be5 44.c7 Bxc7 45.Nxc7 g5* Bruzon Batista,L (2689)-Mikhalevski,V (2552) Arlington 2013 CBM 183 [Marin,Mihail] 1-0 (60)*)* 31...Bg5 32.Rxd8 Rxd8 33.Nd5 Rf8 34.Nc7 Qxb3 35.Qe2 Qf7 36.Nxa6 c4 37.Nc5 Re8 38.Ne4 Chapter-Game Game 3 (38)]

27.Ra1± Qe6 28.Rxa6 f6 29.Rc6! 0x0.00235969625cdp-1022s more active pieces.

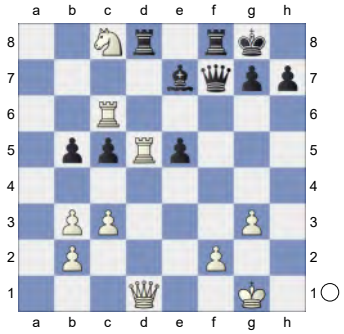
[29.Rxc5 fxe5 30.Rxb5 *(30.Qd5 Qxd5 31.Rxd5 Rf6∓)* 30...Rxd6 31.Rxd6 Bxd6∓]

29...fxe5



30.Nc8! Qf7

(Diagram)



31.Nxe7+ Qxe7 32.Qd2 b4 1.78/22

[32...e4± 0.98/20]

33.Rcxc5+- Rde8 2.22/22

[⌓33...e4 1.65/17 34.Rxd8 *(34.cxb4 Rde8±)* 34...Rxd8]

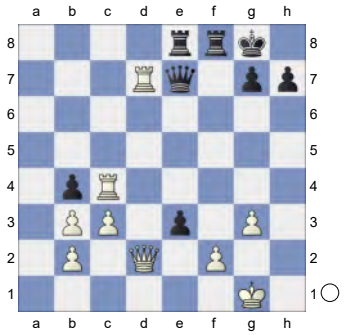
34.Rc4

[34.cxb4?! e4±]

34...e4 35.Rd7

[35.Rxb4 Qf7 36.Kh2 Qxf2+ 37.Qxf2 Rxf2+ 38.Kg1 e3∓]

35...e3



36.Qd5+ Qe6 37.Qxe6+ Rxe6 38.fxe3 Endgame KRR-KRR

[38.Rxb4 exf2+ 39.Kh2 f1Q]

38...h5 39.Rd3

[39.Rxb4 Rxe3 40.Kh2 Rf2+ 41.Kh3 Rff3±]

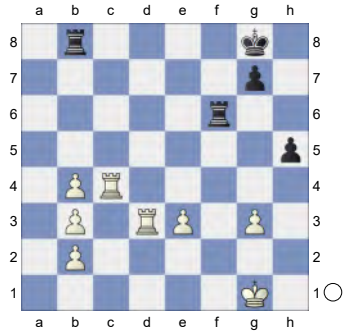
39...Rb8 2.42/23

[39...Rf3 1.82/20 was necessary. 40.Kg2 *(40.Rxb4 Rxg3+ 41.Kf2 Rh3±; 40.cxb4 Rexe3 41.Rxe3 Rxe3±)* 40...Rfxe3 41.Rxe3 Rxe3]

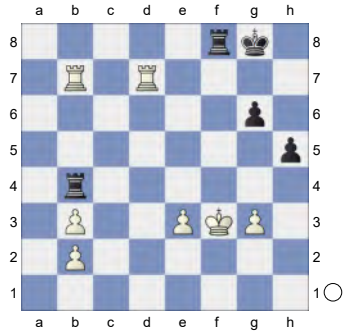
40.cxb4

[Resist 40.Rxb4?! Rxb4 41.cxb4 Re4±]

40...Rf6



41.Kg2 g6 42.Rd7 Rfb6 43.Rcc7 Hoping for Rg7+. **43...Re8 44.Kf3 Rxb4 45.Rb7 Rf8+**



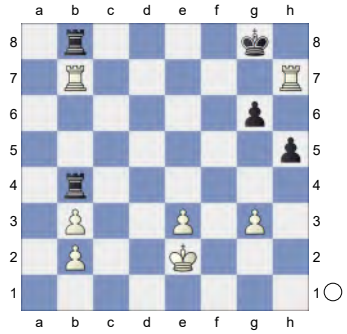
46.Ke2 Rb8 47.Rg7+ Kh8 48.Rh7+ Kg8 49.Rhg7+ 0.01/23

[White has to play 49.Rbg7+!+- 2.74/22 Kf8 50.Rxg6]

49...Kh8= 50.Rh7+ 0.01/5

[Better is 50.Rbe7± 1.00/22]

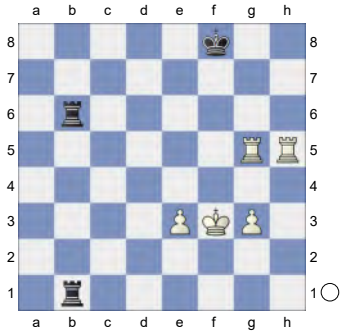
50...Kg8



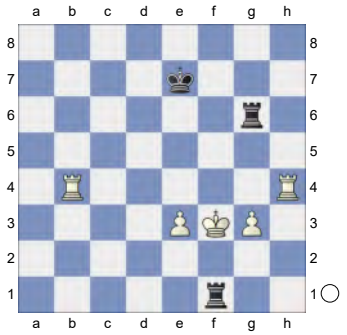
Black is on the road to losing. **51.Rbg7+ Kf8 52.Rxg6 Rxb3 53.Rg5 Rxb2+ 54.Kf3 R8b6 55.Rhxh5**

[But not 55.Rgxh5?! Rf6+ 56.Kg4 Rb4+ 57.Kh3 Rb1±]

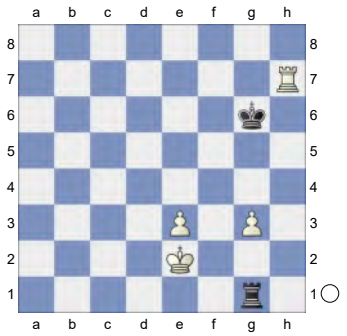
55...Rb1



56.Rg4 Re6 57.Rf5+ Ke7 58.Rff4 Rh6 59.Rh4 Rg6 60.Rb4 Rf1+



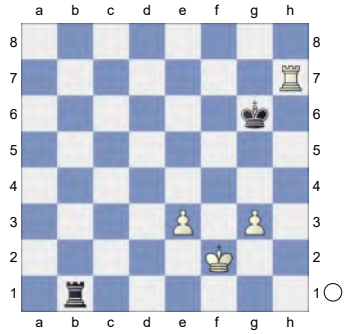
61.Ke2 Rg1 62.Rh7+ Kf6 63.Rb6+ Kg5 64.Rxg6+ Kxg6+-



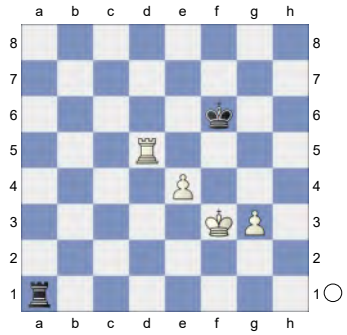
KR-KR **65.Kf2! Rb1**

[65...Ra1 66.Rb7]

(Diagram)

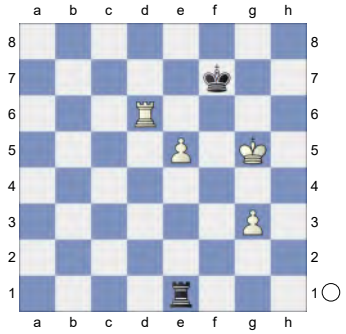


66.Rh4 Ra1 2.14/27
[⌓66...Kg5 1.68/28 67.Rf4 Rb2+ 68.Kf3 Rb1 69.Rg4+ Kf6]
67.Kf3 Rb1? 3.65/29
[67...Rf1+ 1.93/25 68.Kg2 Re1]
68.Rd4 Strongly threatening Rd6+.
68...Kg5? 4.81/29
[68...Ra1 2.96/27 69.e4 Kf6 70.Rd6+ Ke5 71.Rd5+ Ke6]
69.Rd5+ Kf6 70.e4 Ra1

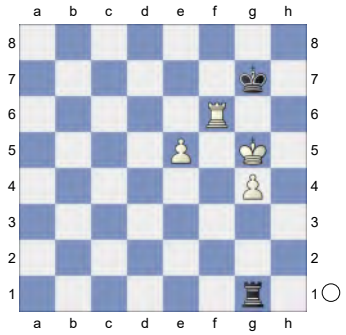


71.Kg4
[Less strong is 71.g4 Rg1 72.Ra5 Kg6+-]
71...Re1 5.27/28
[⌓71...Ra2 3.53/27 72.Kf3 Ra1 73.Rf5+ Kg6]
72.e5+ Kg6? 5.27/31
[72...Ke6 2.81/31 73.Rc5 Rg1]
73.Rd6+ Kf7 74.Kf5 Rf1+ 75.Kg5 White threatens Rf6+ and mate.
75...Re1

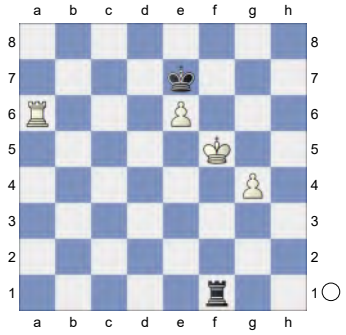
(Diagram)



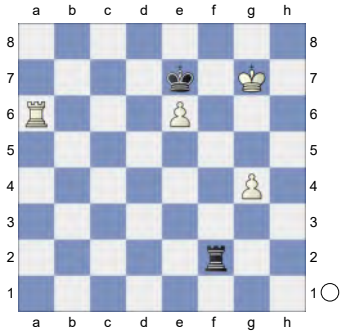
76.Rd5 Ra1? 7.52/30 Against Ra5
[76...Ke6? 77.Ra5+-]
[76...Rg1 3.67/26 77.g4 Ke6]
77.g4 Rg1 7.40/31
[⌓77...Ke6 4.49/29]
78.Rd7+ Ke6 79.Rd6+ Kf7 80.Rf6+ 3.91/28
[⌓80.e6+ 8.32/33 Ke7 81.Rb6]
80...Kg7? 8.12/31
[80...Ke7 3.91/28 81.Kf5 Rf1+ 82.Kg6 Re1]



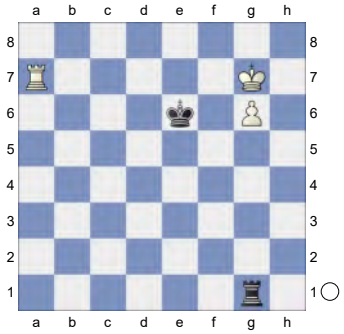
81.Ra6 Kf7 82.e6+ Ke7 83.Kf5 Rf1+



84.Kg6! Rf6+ 85.Kg7 Threatening mate with Ra7+. **85...Rf2**
(Diagram)

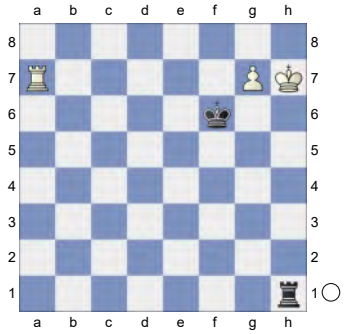


86.g5 Rf1 87.g6 Rg1 88.Ra7+ Ke8 89.Ra8+ 4.42/5
[⌓89.Rb7 8.92/23 Re1 90.Kf6 Rf1+ 91.Ke5 Re1+ 92.Kd6 Rd1+ 93.Kc5 Rc1+ 94.Kd5]
89...Ke7 90.Ra7+? -0.01/25
[90.Kh7+- 5.77/20]
90...Kxe6? 8.39/23
[90...Ke8= -0.01/25 91.Kf6 Rf1+ 92.Ke5 Re1+ 93.Kd4 Kf8 94.Rf7+ Ke8 95.g7 Rd1+ 96.Ke4 Re1+ 97.Kf3 Rg1 98.Rf8+ Ke7]

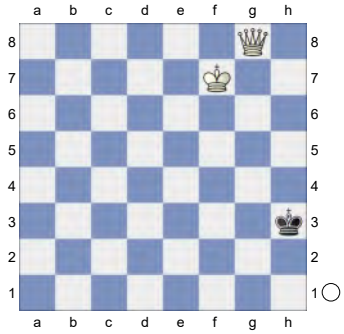


91.Ra6+ Ke7 92.Kh7 Intending g7 and mate. **92...Kf8** Against g7+ **93.Ra8+** 3.95/5
[⌓93.Rf6+ 7.91/25 Ke7 94.Ra6]
93...Ke7 94.Ra7+ Kf6 95.g7 Threatens to win with Ra6+. **95...Rh1+**

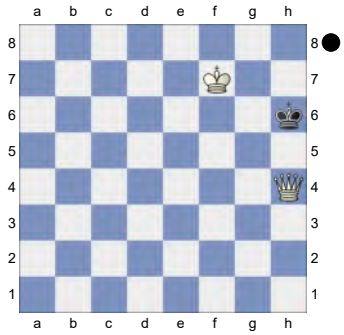
(Diagram)



96.Kg8 Black must now prevent Kf8.
96...Kg5 97.Kf8 Kh4 98.g8Q Rf1+ 99.Rf7 Rxf7+ 100.Kxf7 White wants to mate with Qg2. **100...Kh3**



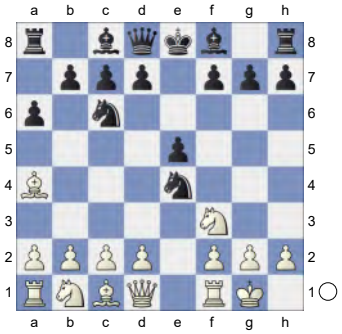
101.Qg1 White mates. **101...Kh4 102.Qg2 Kh5 103.Qg3 Kh6 104.Qh4#**



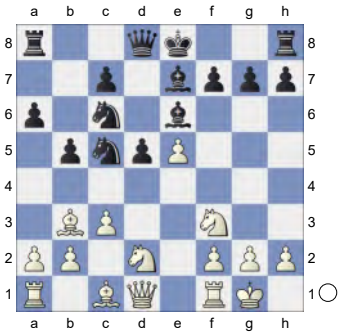
Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)
1-0

15 **C83**
□ **Asliceofpi** **2924**
■ **Botswana Compute** **3002**
Blitz 29.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min+2sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

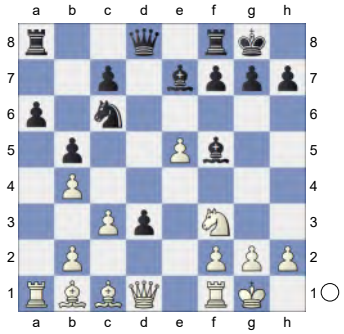


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.b4** 0.24/22
[15.Be3± 0.57/19]
15...0-0=

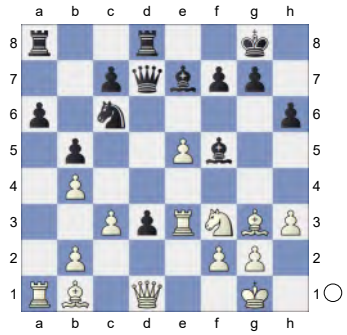
(Diagram)



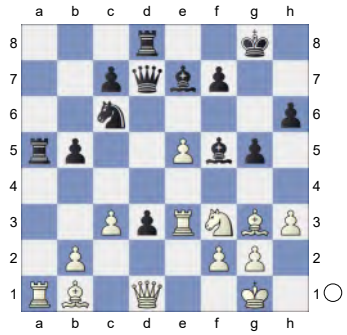
16.Bf4 Qd7 17.h3 h6N
[17...Rfd8 18.g4 *(18.Re1 a5 19.bxa5 Rxa5 20.Rxa5 Nxa5 21.Nd4 c5 22.e6 fxe6 23.Nxf5 exf5 24.Qxd3 Qxd3 25.Bxd3 Rxd3 26.Rxe7 Nc4 27.b3 Na5 28.Rc7 Rd5 29.Rc8+ Kf7 30.Rb8 c4 31.b4 Nb3 32.Rb7+ Kf6* Suyarov,M (2466)-Moosavifar,S (2308) Doha QAT 2024 [Kitty Kat] ½-½ (66) *)* 18...Bg6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7 | Repert-12. Nb3 #2 19.Bg3
A) 19...h5 20.Re1 *(20.Nd2 hxg4 21.hxg4 Nxb4 22.cxb4 Bxb4 23.Ba2 c5 24.e6 fxe6 25.Nf3 c4 26.Ne5 Qe8 27.Kg2 Rd5 28.f3 Rad8 29.Rh1 Bd6 30.Qe1 d2 31.Qe3 Bc2 32.Rad1 Bxd1 33.Rxd1 Bxe5 34.Bxe5 Rd3* Chapter-Games Game 2 (58)*)* 20...d2 21.Re2 Bxb1 22.Rxb1 hxg4 23.Rxd2 Qf5 24.hxg4 Qxg4 25.Nd4 Qg6 26.Nxc6 Qxc6 27.Ra1 Qg6 28.Qf3 Bh4 29.Rad1 Re8 30.Rd5 Bxg3 31.Qxg3 Qxg3+ 32.fxg3 Re6 33.Rd8+ Rxd8 34.Rxd8+ Anand,V (2776)-Mamedyarov,S (2761) Moscow 2016 CBM 179 [Kuzmin,Alexey] ½-½ (37);
B) 19...Kh8 20.Re1 Qc8 21.Nd2 a5 22.bxa5 Rxa5 23.Rxa5 Nxa5 24.f4 f5 25.exf6 Bxf6 26.Ba2 Nc4 27.Bxc4 bxc4 28.g5 Qxh3 29.Qf3

Bh5 30.Qf2 Be2 31.gxf6 gxf6 32.Qg2 Qe6 33.Kh2 Rg8 Harikrishna,P (2752)-Caruana,F (2808) Baku 2016 CI1-130 [Shankland,Samuel L] ½-½ (46)]

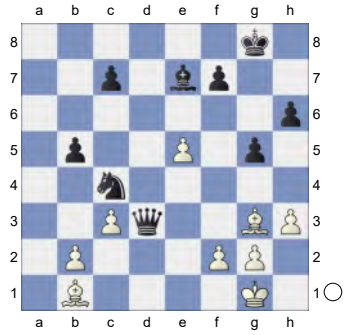
18.Re1! Kh8 19.Bg3 Kg8 20.Re3 Rfd8



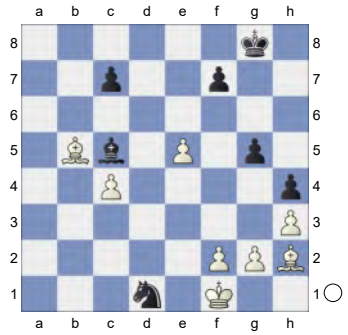
21.Bf4 -0.01/18 Against Bg5
[21.Kh2± 0.50/18]
21...Kh8 0.42/19
[21...Bf8= -0.01/18]
22.Bg3 0.01/17
[22.g4± 0.42/19 is superior. Bg6 23.Ba2]
22...Kg8 23.Bf4 0.01/17
[23.Ba2± 0.44/18 deserves consideration.]
23...g5 0.73/19
[23...Kh8= 0.01/17]
24.Bg3± a5 0.98/18
[24...Kf8± 0.41/17]
25.bxa5 Rxa5 1.35/23
[25...Bc5± 0.65/17 26.Re1 b4]



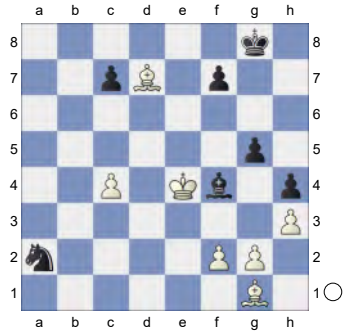
26.Rxa5 Nxa5 27.Nd4 Nc4 28.Nxf5 Qxf5 29.Rxd3 Rxd3 30.Qxd3
[Weaker is 30.Bxd3 Nxb2 31.Bxf5 Nxd1∓]
30...Qxd3



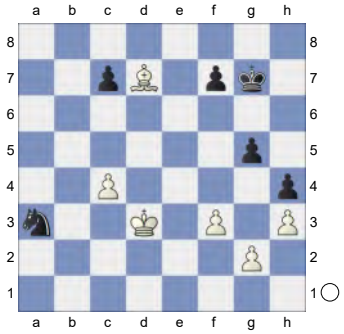
31.Bxd3 Nxb2 32.Bxb5 Endgame KBB-KBN **32...Nd1 33.c4 h5 34.Kf1 h4 35.Bh2**
[35.Ke1 keeps more tension. hxg3 36.Kxd1 gxf2 37.Ke2]
35...Bc5



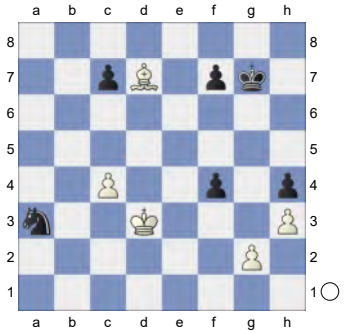
36.Bg1 Bd4 37.Ke2 Nc3+ 38.Kd3 Bxe5 39.Bd7 Na2 40.Ke4 Bf4



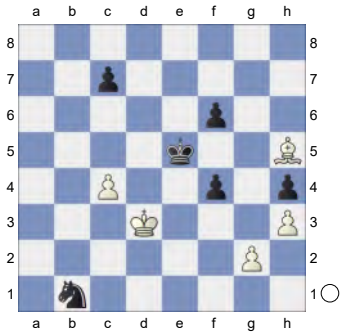
41.f3 Nc3+ 42.Kd3 Nb1 43.Be3 Bxe3 44.Kxe3 KB-KN **44...Na3 45.Kd3** Threatens to win with Bf5. **45...Kg7**
(Diagram)



46.f4 gxf4

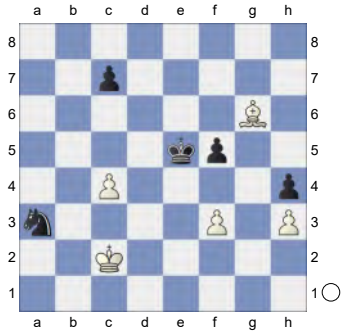


47.Bg4 0.01/28
[47.Bc8!± 0.83/26]
47...Kf6= 48.Kc3 And now Be2 would win. **48...Nb1+ 49.Kd3 Ke5 50.Bh5 f6** 0.48/29
[50...f5= 0.01/27]

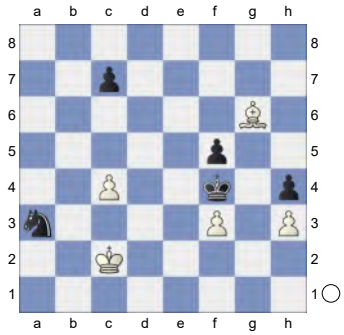


51.Bf3 -0.01/28
[51.Bf7!± 0.48/29]
51...f5 The position is equal. **52.Bh5 Kd6 53.Bg6 f3 54.gxf3 Ke5 55.Kc2 Na3+**

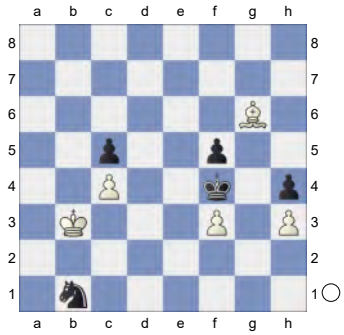
(Diagram)



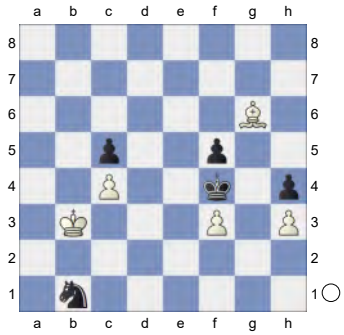
56.Kc3 Nb1+ 57.Kc2 Na3+ 58.Kc3 Nb1+ 59.Kd3 Kf4 60.Kc2 Na3+



61.Kd3 c6 62.Kc3 c5 63.Kb3 Nb1!

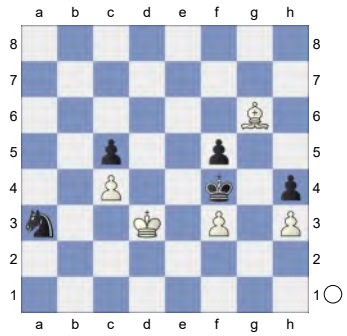


...Nd2+ is the strong threat. **64.Kc2** Inhibits Nd2. **64...Na3+ 65.Kb3 Nb1!**

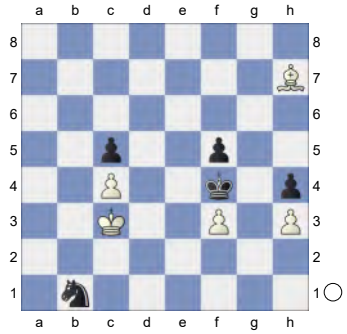


66.Kc2 Inhibits Nd2. **66...Na3+! 67.Kc3 Nb1+ 68.Kd3 Na3 69.Kc3 Nb1+**

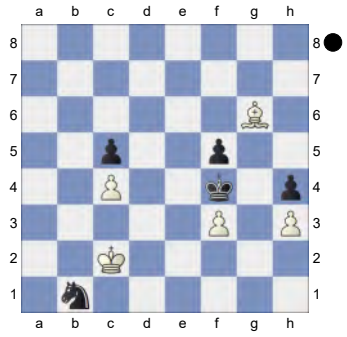
70.Kd3 Na3



71.Bh7 Nb1 72.Kc2 Na3+ 73.Kb3 Nb1 Strongly threatening ...Nd2+. **74.Kc2** Against Nd2 **74...Na3+ 75.Kc3 Nb1+**



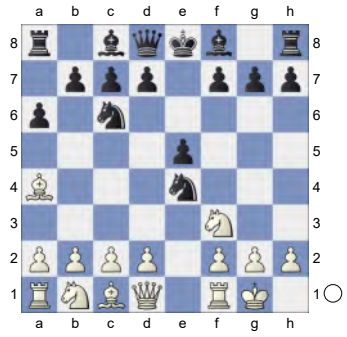
76.Kd3 Na3 77.Kc3 Nb1+ 78.Kd3 Na3 79.Bg6 Nb1 80.Kc2



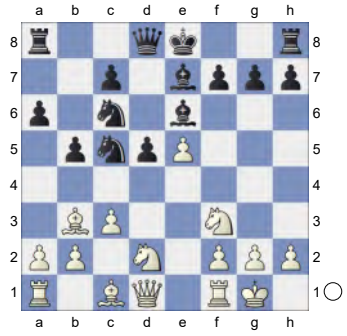
Blacks defense is rewarded with a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

16 **C83**
□ **Mayhem23111** **3002**
■ **Botswana Compute** **3006**
Blitz 28.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min+2sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
Mikhalevski, V: 'As I promised last month I include the following game in the current update.' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

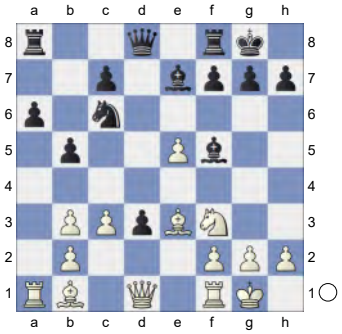


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

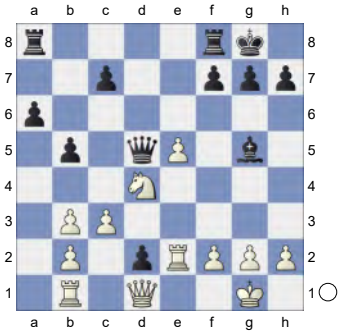


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 The position is equal. **14...Bf5 15.Be3 0-0**

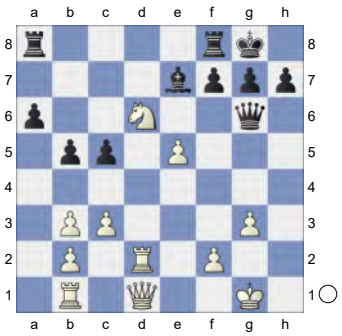
(Diagram)



16.Bd4 Qd5!
[16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 *(17.cxd4 c5=)* 17...Bg6 18.b4± *(18.Bxd3 Bxd3 19.Nc6 Qe8±)*]
17.Re1 d2 18.Re2 Bxb1 19.Rxb1 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bg5

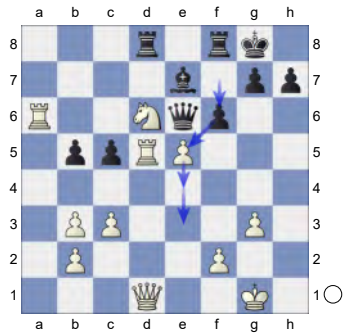


21.g3 c5 22.Nf5 Qd3 23.Nd6 Qg6 24.h4 Bxh4 25.Rxd2 Be7 0.63/19
[25...Rad8!= 0.20/19 might be stronger.]

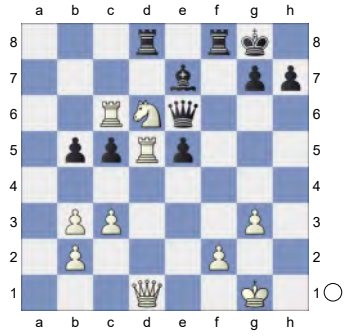


26.Rd5
[26.Qe1 Qe6 27.Qe3 Bxd6 28.Rxd6 Qxb3 29.Qxc5 Qc2 30.Ra1 Bjerre,J (2438)-Kushagra,M (2283) Porto Carras 2018 [Petronijevic, Zoran]]
26...Rad8N
[26...f6 27.e6 f5 28.Qd3 Qxe6 29.Nxf5 Bf6 *(29...Rad8 30.Qe3 Qxe3 31.Nxe3 Rxd5 32.Nxd5 Bd8 33.f4 Kf7 34.Kg2 Re8 35.Kf3 Re6 36.g4 Rd6 37.Rd1 h6 38.f5 g6 39.fxg6+ Kg7 40.Ke4 Bg5 41.Ke5 Rc6 42.Rf1 Rxg6 43.Nc7 Be7 44.Ne6+* Caruana,F (2781)-Gelfand,B (2761) Zürich SUI 2014 [Smerdon, David] ½-½ (58) *Kg8 45.Rf4 h5 46.gxh5 Rg2 47.h6 Rxb2 48.Rg4+ Kh8 49.Nf4 Kh7 50.Rg7+ Kxh6 51.Rxe7 Rxb3 52.Nd5 Rb1 53.Kd6 c4 54.Ra7 Ra1 55.Kc5 Kg5 56.Kb6 Rd1 57.Nb4 Rc1 58.Na2* 1-0 (58) Caruana,F (2767)-L'Ami,E (2611) Reykjavik ISL 2012 [Mikhalevski, V]*)* 30.Rd1 Rad8 31.Ne3 *(31.Qe3 Qxe3 32.Nxe3 Rxd5 33.Nxd5 b4 34.Ra1 Rb8 35.cxb4 Bxb2 36.Ra2 Bd4 37.Rxa6 Kf7 38.bxc5 Rxb3 39.c6 Rxg3+ 40.Kf1 Rf3 41.Ra2 Ke6 42.Nc7+ Kf7 43.Nb5 Be5 44.c7 Bxc7 45.Nxc7 g5* Bruzon Batista,L (2689)-Mikhalevski,V (2552) Arlington 2013 CBM 183 [Marin,Mihail] 1-0 (60) *)* 31...Bg5 32.Rxd8 Rxd8 33.Nd5 Rf8 34.Nc7 Qxb3 35.Qe2 Qf7 36.Nxa6 c4 37.Nc5 Re8 38.Ne4 Chapter-Game Game 3 (38)]
27.Ra1 Qe6 1.43/20
[⌓27...h5 1.05/20]
28.Rxa6± f6

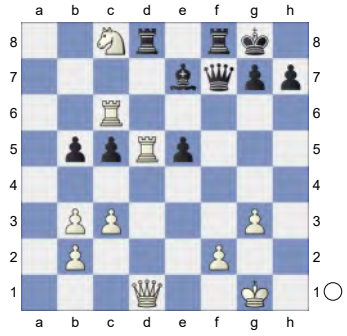
(Diagram)



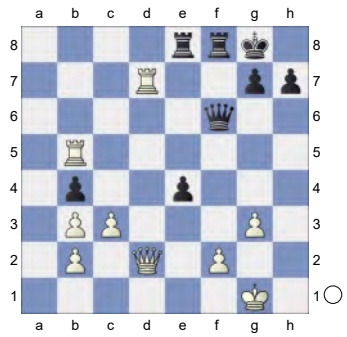
29.Rc6! &Bianco is much more active.
[29.Rxc5 fxe5 30.Rd5 *(30.Qd5 Qxd5 31.Rxd5 Rf6∓)* 30...e4∓]
29...fxe5



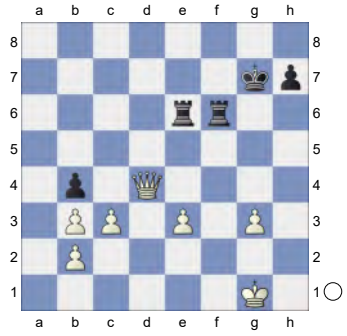
30.Nc8! Qf7



31.Nxe7+ Qxe7 32.Qd2 b4 1.70/22
[32...e4± 1.21/20]
33.Rcxc5+- Rde8 2.38/23
[⌓33...e4 1.81/20 34.Qd4 *(34.cxb4 Rde8±)* 34...bxc3 35.bxc3 e3 36.Qxe3 Qxe3 37.fxe3 Rxd5 38.Rxd5 Rf3]
34.Rb5
[34.cxb4?! e4±]
34...e4 35.Rd7
[35.cxb4?! e3 36.fxe3 *(36.Qxe3 37.fxe3 Rxe3=)* 36...Qxe3+ 37.Qxe3 Rxe3=]
[35.Rxb4 Qf7 36.Kh2 Qxf2+ 37.Qxf2 Rxf2+ 38.Kg1 e3∓]
35...Qf6 3.17/22
[35...e3± 1.60/23 might work better. 36.Qd5+ Qe6]

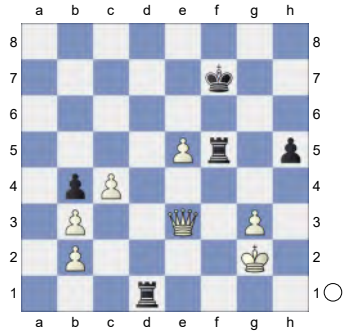


36.Rbb7
[Don't blunder 36.cxb4? e3 37.Qd5+ Kh8-+]
36...e3 37.Rxg7+ Qxg7 38.Rxg7+ Kxg7 Endgame KQ-KRR **39.Qd4+ Rf6 40.fxe3 Ree6**

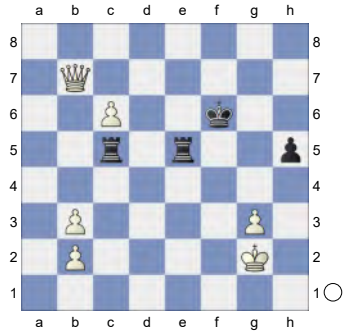


41.e4 Rd6 42.Qe3 Rd1+ 43.Kg2 h5? 4.98/21
[43...Rb1 2.34/18 44.Qg5+ Kf7 45.cxb4 Rxb2+ 46.Kh3 Rb1 47.Qd5+ Ke7]
44.e5 Rf5 45.c4 Against Rd5 **45...Kf7**

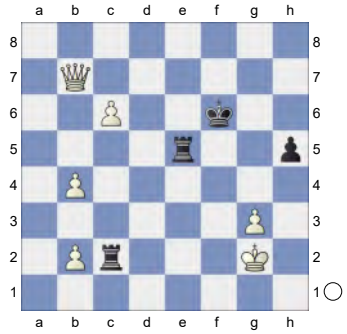
(Diagram)



46.c5 Black must now prevent c6. **46...Rd5 47.c6** c7 is the strong threat. **47...Rfxe5 48.Qf4+ Ke7 49.Qxb4+ Rc5 50.Qb7+ Kf6**



51.b4 Rc2+

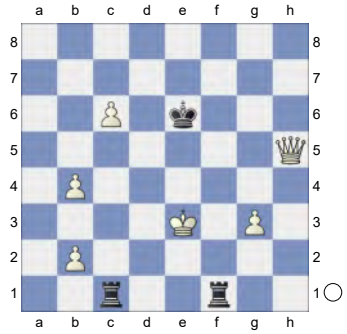


52.Kf3! Strongly threatening c7. **52...Re1** 7.96/20

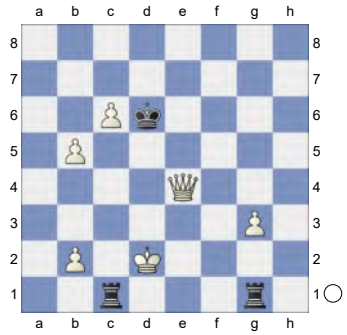
[⌓52...Rf5+ 4.95/18 53.Ke4 Re5+ 54.Kd4 Ree2]

53.Qh7 Rf1+ 54.Ke3 Rcc1 55.Qxh5 Ke6

(Diagram)



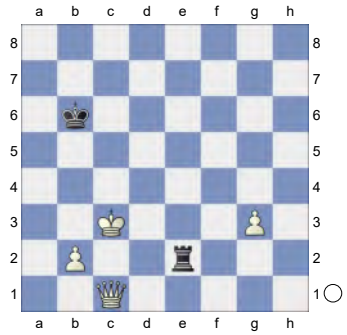
56.b5 Kd6 57.Qg4 Rfe1+ 58.Kd2 Rg1 59.Qd4+ Ke6 60.Qe4+ Kd6



61.Qg4

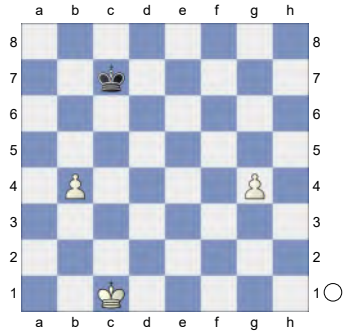
[But not 61.b6? Rgd1+ 62.Ke3 Re1+ 63.Kd2 Rxe4-+]

61...Rh1 62.b6 Kxc6 63.Qc8+ Kxb6 64.Qxc1 KQ-KR **64...Rh2+ 65.Kc3** White wants to mate with Qg1+. **65...Re2**

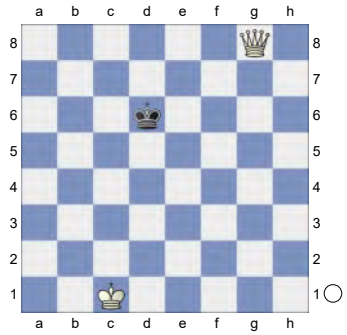


66.b3 Ra2 67.b4 Threatening mate with Qe3+. **67...Ra8 68.g4 Rc8+ 69.Kb2 Rxc1 70.Kxc1** KP-KP. White mates. **70...Kc7**

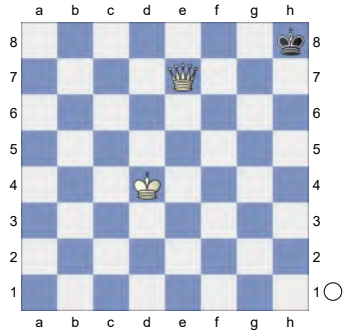
(Diagram)



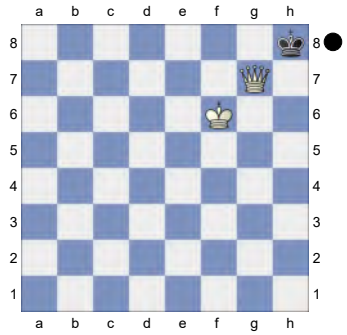
71.b5 Kb6 72.g5 Ka5 73.g6 Kxb5 KP-K **74.g7 Kc5 75.g8Q Kd6**



76.Kc2 Ke5 77.Kd3 Kf6 78.Qe8 Kg7 79.Qe7+ Kg8 80.Kd4 Kh8



81.Ke5 Kg8 82.Kf6 Kh8 83.Qg7#

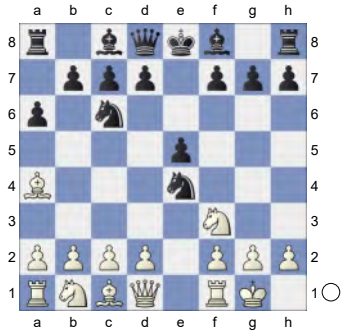


Weighted Error Value: White=0.07

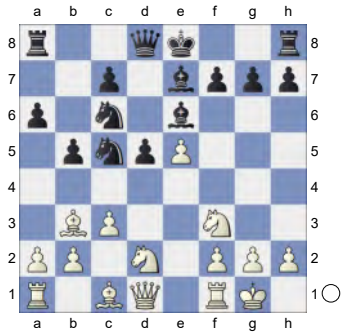
(flawless) /Black=0.21 (precise)
1-0

17 **C83**
□ **Lenschess** **3012**
■ **Botswana Compute** **3000**
Blitz 27.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min+2sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

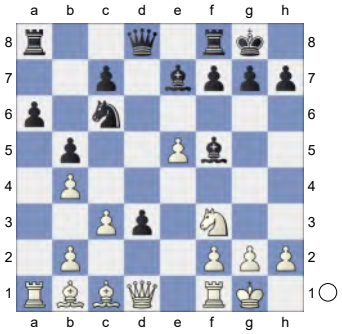


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 Nc5

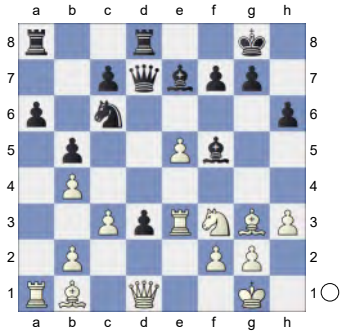


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.b4 0-0**

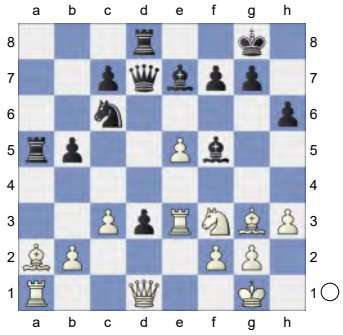
(Diagram)



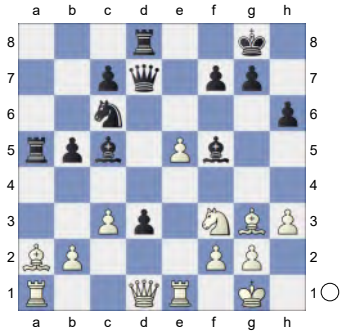
16.h3 0.13/20
[16.Bf4± 0.46/21 should be considered.]
16...Qd7 17.Bf4 h6N
[17...Rfd8 18.g4 *(18.Re1 a5 19.bxa5 Rxa5 20.Rxa5 Nxa5 21.Nd4 c5 22.e6 fxe6 23.Nxf5 exf5 24.Qxd3 Qxd3 25.Bxd3 Rxd3 26.Rxe7 Nc4 27.b3 Na5 28.Rc7 Rd5 29.Rc8+ Kf7 30.Rb8 c4 31.b4 Nb3 32.Rb7+ Kf6* Suyarov,M (2466)-Moosavifar,S (2308) Doha QAT 2024 [Kitty Kat] ½-½ (66) *)* 18...Bg6 19.Bg3 h5 *(19...Kh8 20.Re1 Qc8 21.Nd2 a5 22.bxa5 Rxa5 23.Rxa5 Nxa5 24.f4 f5 25.exf6 Bxf6 26.Ba2 Nc4 27.Bxc4 bxc4 28.g5 Qxh3 29.Qf3 Bh5 30.Qf2 Be2 31.gxf6 gxf6 32.Qg2 Qe6 33.Kh2 Rg8 34.Ra1* Harikrishna,P (2752)-Caruana,F (2808) Baku 2016 CI1-130 [Shankland, Samuel L] ½-½ (46) *)* 20.Re1 d2 21.Re2 Bxb1 22.Rxb1 hxg4 23.Rxd2 Qf5 24.hxg4 Qxg4 25.Nd4 Qg6 26.Nxc6 Qxc6 27.Ra1 Qg6 28.Qf3 Bh4 29.Rad1 Re8 30.Rd5 Bxg3 31.Qxg3 Qxg3+ 32.fxg3 Anand,V (2776)-Mamedyarov,S (2761) Moscow 2016 CBM 179 [Kuzmin,Alexey] ½-½ (37)]
18.Re1! Kh8 19.Bg3 Rfd8 20.Re3 Kg8 0.61/20
[20...a5= 0.07/19]



21.Bf4 0.24/17
[21.Ba2± 0.61/20]
21...Kh8 22.Bg3 -0.01/16
[22.Ba2!± 0.44/18]
22...Kg8!= 23.Ba2 a5
[23...d2 24.Re2]
24.bxa5 Bc5!
[24...Rxa5?

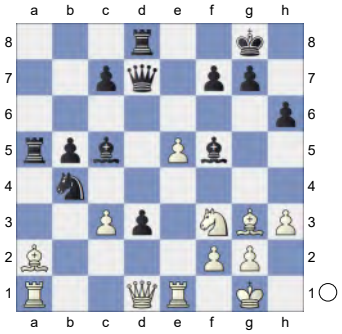


25.Bxf7+! Kxf7 26.Rxa5+-]
25.Re1 Rxa5

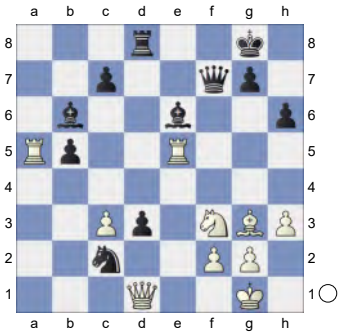


26.b4 Nxb4

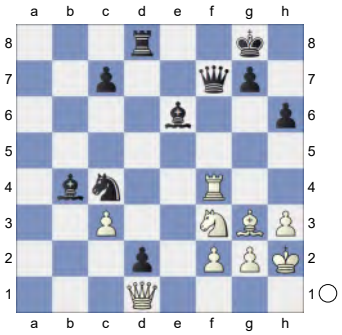
(Diagram)



27.Bxf7+ Qxf7 28.Rxa5 Nc2 29.e6!
[Not 29.Rxb5 Qc4 30.Rxc5 Qxc5∓]
29...Bxe6 30.Re5 Bb6

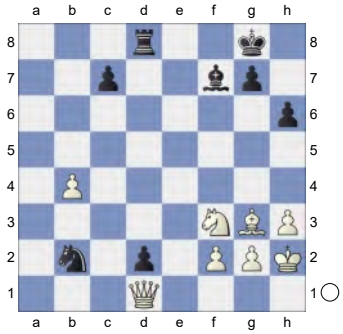


31.Raxb5 Na3 32.Rb4 Threatens to win with Bh4. **32...Nc4 33.Re4 d2 34.Kh2** Strongly threatening Rf4. **34...Ba5 35.Rf4 Bxb4**

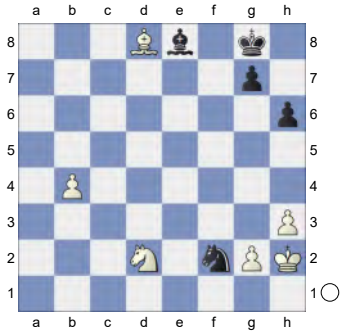


36.Rxf7 Bxf7 37.cxb4 Nb2

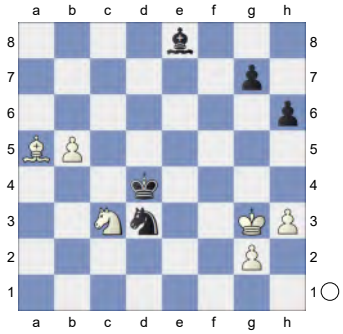
(Diagram)



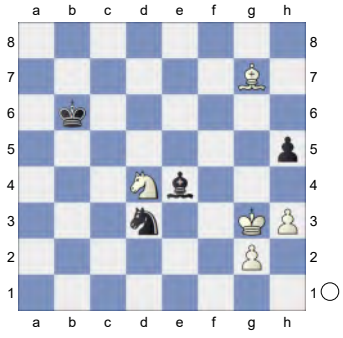
38.Bxc7! Nxd1 39.Bxd8 Nxf2 40.Nxd2± Endgame KBN-KBN **40...Be8**



41.Kg3 Nd3 42.Ba5 Kf7 43.Ne4 Ke6 Against Nd6 **44.Nc3 Ke5 45.b5 Kd4**



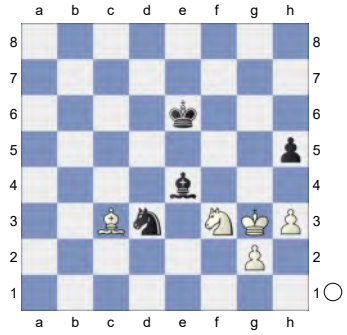
46.b6 Bc6 47.Ne2+ Kc5 48.Bc3 Hoping for Bd4+. **48...Kxb6 49.Bxg7 h5 50.Nd4 Be4**



51.Nf3 Kc5 52.Kh4 Nf4 53.Kg3 0.01/19

[53.Nd4± 0.80/21]

53...Nd3!= 54.Bd4+ Kd5 55.Bc3 Ke6



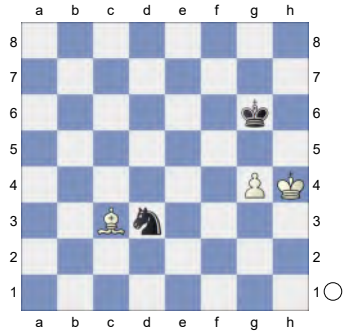
56.Ng5+ Kf5 57.Nxe4 Kxe4± KB-KN **58.Kh4** aiming for Bd2. **58...Kf5 59.g4+** 0.00/38

[But not 59.Kxh5?! Nf4+ 60.Kh4 Nxg2+ 61.Kh5 *(61.Kg3 Nf4=)* 61...Nf4+ 62.Kh6 Nxh3=]

[Better is 59.Bd2± 0.93/28 Kg6 60.Be3]

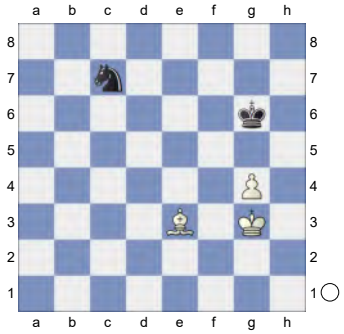
59...hxg4= The position is equal.

60.hxg4+ Kg6

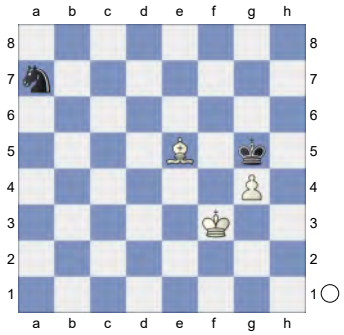


61.Kg3 Nc5 62.Kf3 Against Ne4 **62...Ne6 63.Bd2 Nd4+ 64.Kg3 Ne6 65.Be3 Nc7**

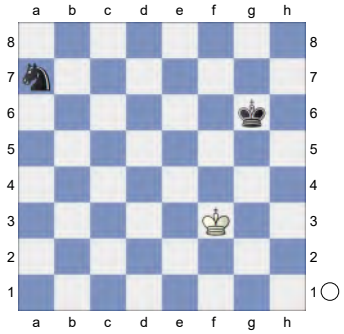
(Diagram)



66.Bd4 Nb5 67.Be5 Kg5 68.Kf3 Kg6 69.Kf4 Na7 70.Kf3 Kg5



71.Bf4+ Kf6 72.Be5+ Kxe5 73.g5 Kf5 74.g6! g7 is the strong threat. **74...Kxg6**

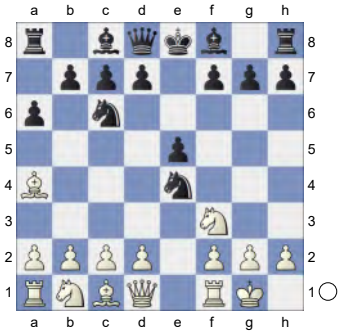


Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

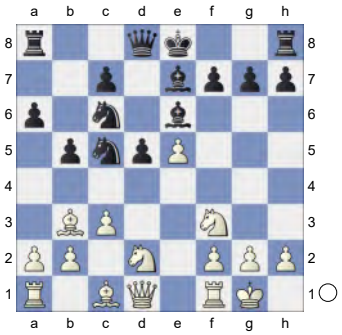
½-½

18 **C83**
□ **Asliceofpi** **2923**
■ **Botswana Compute** **3004**
Blitz 26.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

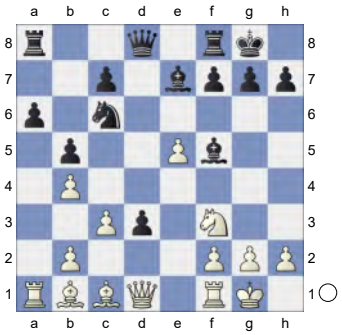
Blitz 3min+1sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7



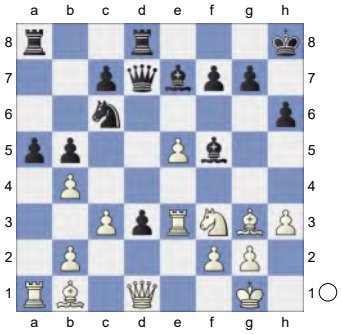
11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3! 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.b4 0-0**



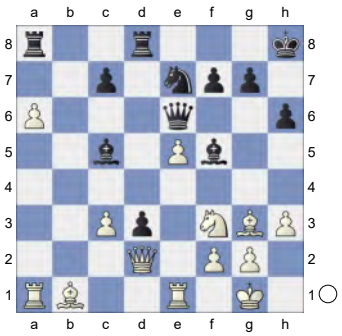
16.Bf4 Qd7 17.Re1

[17.h3 Rfd8 18.g4 Bg6 19.Bg3 Kh8 20.Re1 Qc8 21.Nd2 a5 22.bxa5 Rxa5 23.Rxa5 Nxa5 24.f4 f5 25.exf6 Bxf6 26.Ba2 Nc4 27.Bxc4 bxc4 28.g5 Qxh3 29.Qf3 Bh5 30.Qf2 Be2 31.gxf6 gxf6 Harikrishna, P (2752)-Caruana,F (2808) Baku 2016 CI1-130 [Shankland,Samuel L] ½-½ (46)]
17...Kh8N 0.40/18
[17...Rfd8= 0.00/17
A) 18.h4 h6 19.Re3 a5 20.bxa5 Rxa5 *(20...Nxa5 21.e6 fxe6 22.Ne5 Qd5 23.Qh5 Nc4 24.Rxa8 Rxa8 25.Qf7+ Kh8 26.Rg3 Bf8 27.Nd7 Nd6 28.Bxd6 Qxd6 29.Nf6 Bh7 30.Bxd3 Qf4 31.Bxh7 Ra1+ 32.Kh2 Qxh4+ 33.Rh3 Qf4+ 34.Rg3 Qh4+ 35.Rh3* Safarli,E (2593)-Brkic,A (2600) Batumi 2019 Chess Informant 142 [Perunovic, Milos] ½-½ (35) *)* 21.Rxa5 Nxa5 22.Nd4 Nc4 23.Nxf5 Nxe3 24.Nxe3 c5 25.b3 Bxh4 26.c4 Qd4 27.g3 bxc4 28.bxc4 Bg5 29.Nf5 Qc3 30.Bxg5 hxg5 31.Ne3 g6 32.Kg2 Kg7 9.00 ♘bd7 10. b3_67550 (2703)-Chapter,W (2694) Elista 2016 200 Traps In The Opening [List,Paul M] 0-1 (48);
B) 18.h3 a5 19.g4 Bg6 20.bxa5 Rxa5 21.Ba2 Rf8 22.e6 Qd8 23.exf7+ Kh8 24.b4 Ra4 25.Bd2 Bxf7 26.Bxf7 Rxa1 27.Qxa1 Rxf7 28.Ng5 Bxg5 29.Bxg5 Qf8 30.Qa6 Nb8 31.Qxb5 Rd7 32.Re7 c6 Wachinger,N (2442)-Blomqvist,E (2483) Vrnjacka Banja 2024 1-0 (36)]
18.h3± h6 19.Bg3 Rfd8 20.Re3 a5

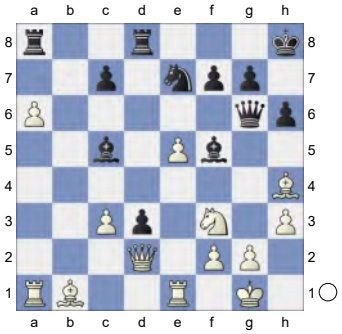
(Diagram)



21.bxa5 Black must now prevent b4.
21...Bc5
[But not 21...Rxa5 22.Rxa5 Nxa5 23.Nd4±]
22.Re1 b4!
[22...Nxa5? 23.b4+-]
23.a6 Qe6 24.Qd2 bxc3 25.bxc3 Ne7!

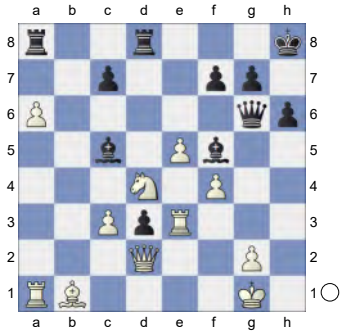


26.Bh4 Qg6

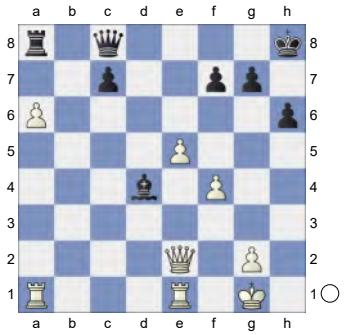


Hoping for ...Bxh3. **27.Bxe7 Bxe7 28.Nd4 Bxh3 29.f4 Bf5 30.Re3 Bc5**

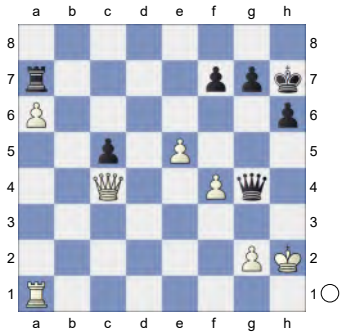
(Diagram)



31.Bxd3 Bb6 32.Bxf5 Qxf5 33.Ree1 Qc8 34.Qe2 Rxd4 35.cxd4 Bxd4+

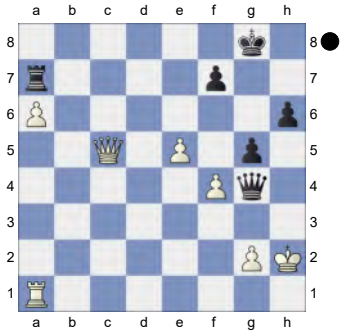


36.Kh2 Threatens to win with Ra2.
36...Bxa1 37.Rxa1= Endgame KQR-KQR **37...c5 38.Qc4 Ra7 39.Ra3 Qg4 40.Ra1 Kh7** 0.46/21
[40...Qc8!= -0.01/20]

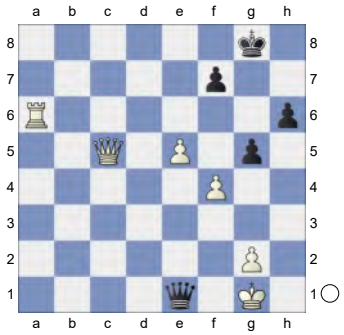


41.Qe4+ 0.11/19
[41.Kg1± 0.46/21]
41...Kg8 42.Qc4 -0.01/21
[42.Qe3± 0.51/18]
42...g5 The position is equal. **43.Qxc5**

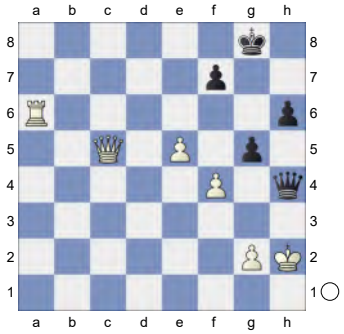
(Diagram)



Active counter play! **43...Rxa6 44.Rxa6 Qh4+ 45.Kg1 Qe1+**



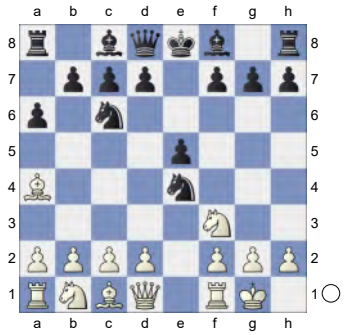
46.Kh2 Qh4+ 47.Kg1 Qe1+ 48.Kh2 Qh4+



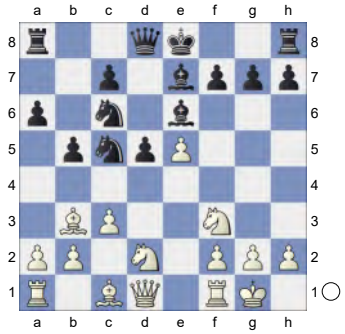
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

19 **C83**
□ **Mayhem23111** **3065**
■ **Botswana Compute** **3005**
Rapid 25.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 10min+1sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
Mikhalevski, V: 'As I promised last month I include the following game in the current update.' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

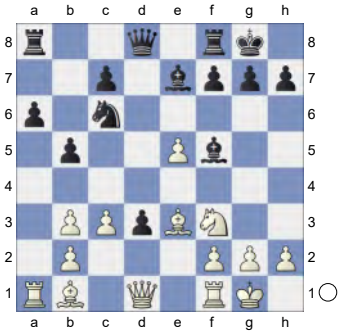


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

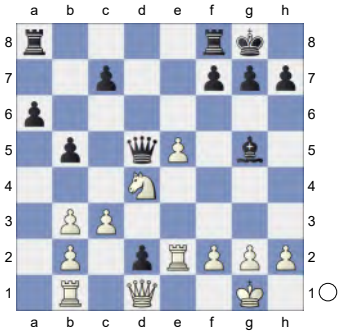


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3! 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.Be3 0-0**

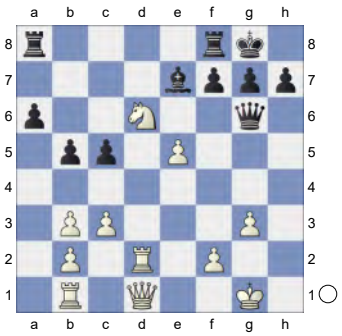
(Diagram)



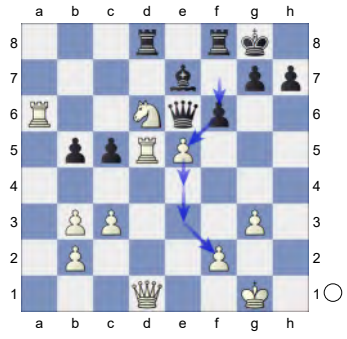
16.Bd4 Qd5
[16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 *(17.cxd4 c5=)* 17...Bg6 18.b4± *(18.Bxd3 Bxd3 19.Nc6 Qe8±)*]
17.Re1 d2 18.Re2 Bxb1 19.Rxb1 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bg5



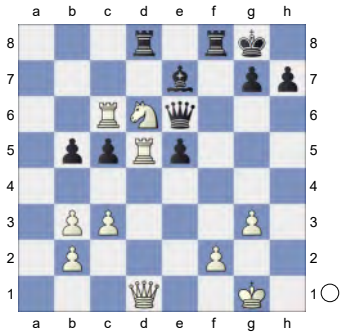
21.g3 c5 22.Nf5 Black should prevent f4. **22...Qd3 23.Nd6 Qg6 24.h4 Bxh4 25.Rxd2 Be7** 0.62/20
[25...Rad8!= 0.21/20]



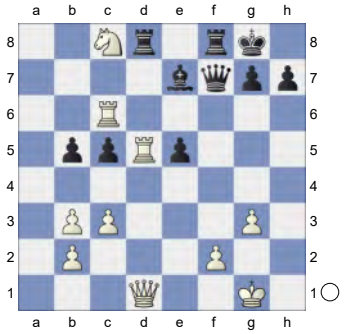
26.Rd5
[26.Qe1 Qe6 27.Qe3 Bxd6 28.Rxd6 Qxb3 29.Qxc5 Qc2 30.Ra1 Bjerre,J (2438)-Kushagra,M (2283) Porto Carras 2018 [Petronijevic, Zoran]]
26...Rad8N 0.83/21
[26...f6± 0.50/19 27.e6 f5 28.Qd3 Qxe6 29.Nxf5 Bf6 *(29...Rad8 30.Qe3 Qxe3 31.Nxe3 Rxd5 32.Nxd5 Bd8 33.f4 Kf7 34.Kg2 Re8 35.Kf3 Re6 36.g4 Rd6 37.Rd1 h6 38.f5 g6 39.fxg6+ Kg7 40.Ke4 Bg5 41.Ke5 Rc6 42.Rf1 Rxg6 43.Nc7 Be7 44.Ne6+* Caruana,F (2781)-Gelfand,B (2761) Zürich SUI 2014 [Smerdon, David] ½-½ (58) *Kg8 45.Rf4 h5 46.gxh5 Rg2 47.h6 Rxb2 48.Rg4+ Kh8 49.Nf4 Kh7 50.Rg7+ Kxh6 51.Rxe7 Rxb3 52.Nd5 Rb1 53.Kd6 c4 54.Ra7 Ra1 55.Kc5 Kg5 56.Kb6 Rd1 57.Nb4 Rc1 58.Na2* 1-0 (58) Caruana,F (2767)-L'Ami,E (2611) Reykjavik ISL 2012 [Mikhalevski, V]*)* 30.Rd1 Rad8 31.Ne3 *(31.Qe3 Qxe3 32.Nxe3 Rxd5 33.Nxd5 b4 34.Ra1 Rb8 35.cxb4 Bxb2 36.Ra2 Bd4 37.Rxa6 Kf7 38.bxc5 Rxb3 39.c6 Rxg3+ 40.Kf1 Rf3 41.Ra2 Ke6 42.Nc7+ Kf7 43.Nb5 Be5 44.c7 Bxc7 45.Nxc7 g5* Bruzon Batista,L (2689)-Mikhalevski,V (2552) Arlington 2013 CBM 183 [Marin,Mihail] 1-0 (60)*)* 31...Bg5 32.Rxd8 Rxd8 33.Nd5 Rf8 34.Nc7 Qxb3 35.Qe2 Qf7 36.Nxa6 c4 37.Nc5 Re8 38.Ne4 Chapter-Game Game 3 (38)]
27.Ra1± Qe6 28.Rxa6 f6



29.Rc6! &Bianco is much more active.
[29.Rxc5 fxe5 30.Rxb5 *(30.Qd5 Qxd5 31.Rxd5 Rf6∓)* 30...Rxd6 31.Rxd6 Bxd6∓]
29...fxe5

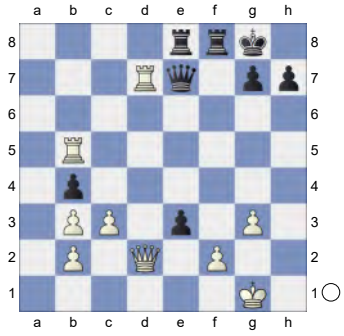


30.Nc8! Qf7

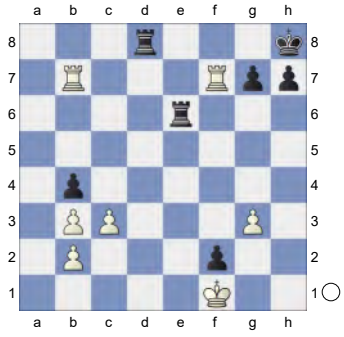


31.Nxe7+ Qxe7 32.Qd2 b4 1.61/21
[32...h5± 0.97/21]
33.Rcxc5+- Rde8 2.09/23
[33...Qxc5± 1.23/19 34.Rxd8 Rxd8 35.Qxd8+ Kf7]
34.Rb5↑ White is really pushing.
[34.cxb4 e4±]
34...e4 35.Rd7
[35.cxb4?! e3 36.fxe3 *(36.Qxe3 Qxe3 37.fxe3 Rxe3=)* 36...Qxe3+ 37.Qxe3 Rxe3=]
[35.Rxb4 Qf7 36.Kh2 Qxf2+ 37.Qxf2 Rxf2+ 38.Kg1 e3∓]
35...e3

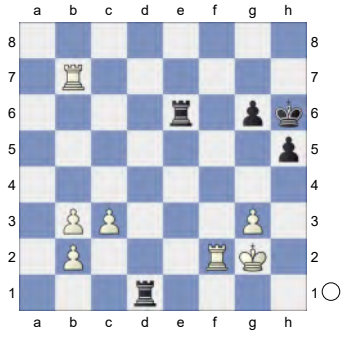
(Diagram)



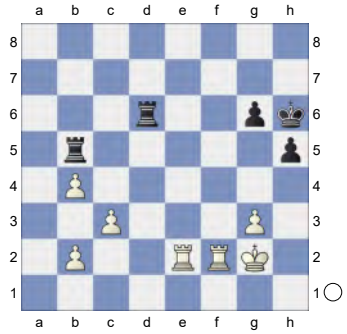
36.Qd5+ Qe6 37.Rbb7 exf2+ 38.Kf1 Kh8 (-> ...Qe2+)
[38...Qxd5? is a self mate. 39.Rxg7+ Kh8 40.Rxh7+ Kg8 41.Rbg7#]
39.Qxe6 Dancing on a razor blade.
39...Rxe6 Endgame KRR-KRR **40.Rf7 Rd8**



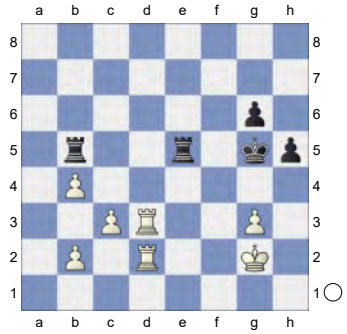
41.Rxb4
[41.Rxg7 Rd2 42.Rxh7+ Kg8 43.Rhg7+ Kh8]
41...h5 42.Rb5 Rd1+ 43.Kg2 2.03/24
[43.Kxf2± 1.56/21 Kg8 44.Rc7]
43...Kh7 44.Rxf2
[Much less strong is 44.Kxf2?! Rd2+ 45.Kf3 Kh6±]
44...g6 45.Rb7+ Kh6



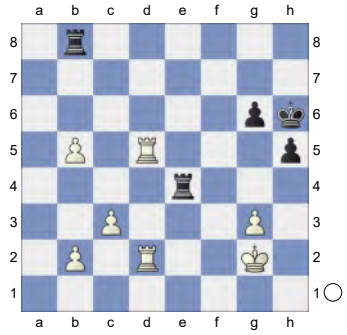
46.Rbf7 Rb6 47.b4 Rb8 48.Rc7 Rd3 49.Re7 Rb5 50.Ree2 Rd6



51.Rd2 Re6 52.Rfe2 Rf6 53.Re3 Kg5 54.Rf3 Re6 55.Rfd3 Ree5



56.Rd6 Kh6 57.Kf2 Rb8 58.R6d5 Re4 59.b5 Rf8+ 60.Kg2 Rb8



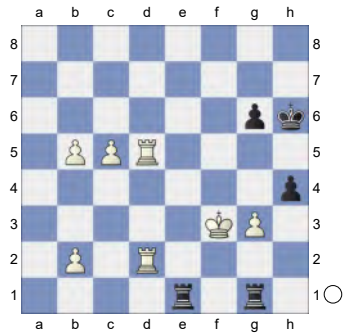
61.Kf3 Re1 62.c4 Rf8+ 63.Kg2 Rff1 5.05/20

[63...Rb8 3.21/20 was worth a try. 64.b3 Kg7 65.Rd7+ Kf6 66.Rf2+ Kg5 67.Rd5+ Kh6]

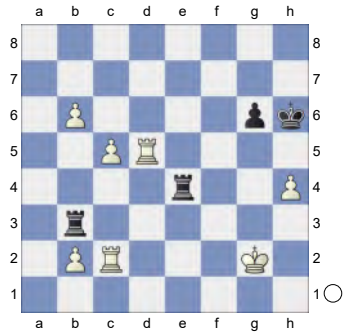
64.c5 Rg1+ 65.Kf3 h4? 6.58/18

[65...g5 2.62/18 66.Rf2 Kg6]

(Diagram)



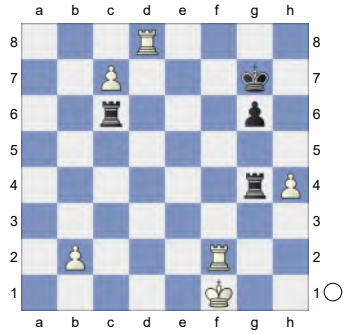
66.gxh4 Rgf1+ 67.Rf2 Rh1 68.b6 Rh3+ 69.Kg2 Rb3 70.Rc2 Against Rc1. And now c6 would win. **70...Re4**



71.c6 aiming for c7. **71...Rg4+ 72.Kf1** Strongly threatening c7. **72...Rxb6 73.Rd8**

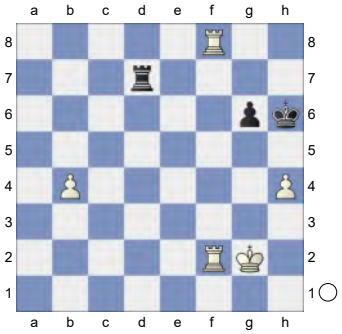
[Not 73.c7 Rf6+ 74.Ke1 Rg1+ 75.Kd2 Rg2+ 76.Kc1 Rxc2+ 77.Kxc2 Rc6+ 78.Kd3 Rxc7+-]

73...Kg7 74.c7 Rf6+ 75.Rf2 Rc6

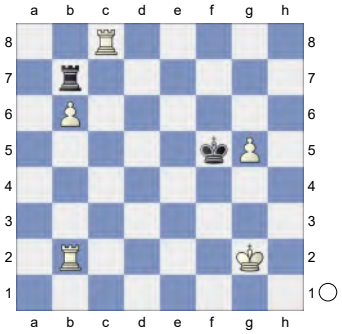


76.c8Q Rxc8 77.Rxc8 Intending Rcf8 and mate. **77...Rb4 78.Rcf8 Rb7** Prevents R2f7+. **79.b4** Threatening mate with b5! **79...Rd7 80.Kg2 Kh6**

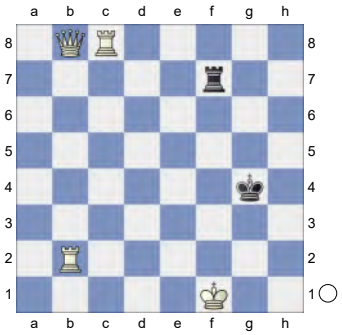
(Diagram)



81.Rb2 Rh8+ is the strong threat. **81...Kg7 82.Rc8** b5 would kill now. **82...g5 83.b5 Kf6 84.b6** White threatens b7 and mate. **84...Rb7 85.hxg5+ Kf5**

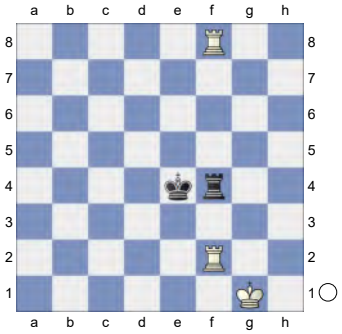


86.g6 Kg5 87.g7 Rxg7 88.b7 Kf4+ 89.Kf1 Kg4 90.b8Q Rf7+

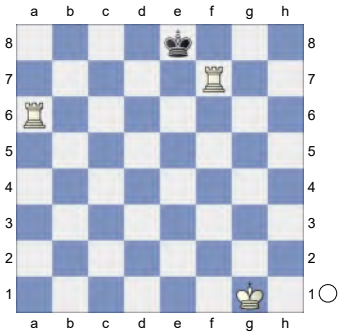


91.Qf4+ Rxf4+ 92.Rf2 Ra4 93.Kg1 Rf4 94.Rg8+ Kf5 95.Rf8+ White mates. **95...Ke4**

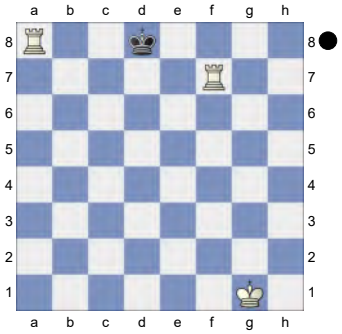
(Diagram)



96.R2xf4+ Kd5 97.R4f5+ Ke6 98.R8f6+ Ke7 99.Ra6 Kd7 100.Rf7+ Ke8



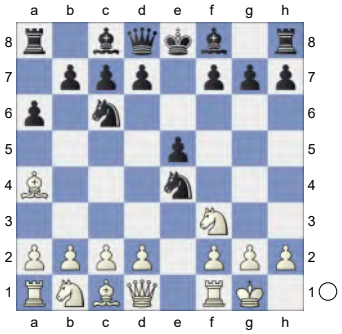
101.Raa7 Kd8 102.Ra8#



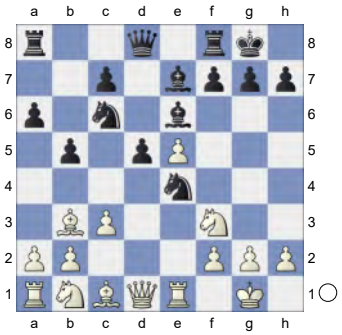
Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.10 (very precise)
1-0

20 **C83**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2890**
■ **Aronian,Levon** **2737**
FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championsh..
[Kitty Kat]

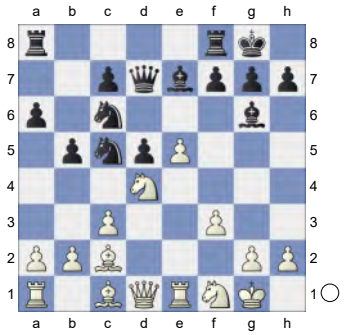
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



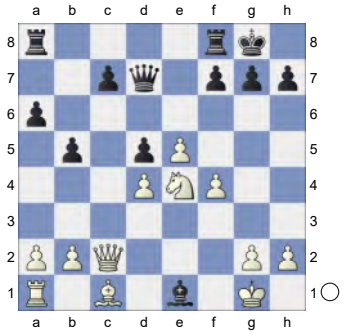
6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Bb3 d5 9.dxe5 Be6 10.c3 0-0



11.Nbd2 Nc5 12.Nd4 Qd7
[12...Nxb3? 13.Nxc6! Qe8 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Nxb3+-]
[12...Nxd4 13.cxd4 Nd3 14.Re3 Nf4 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.h3 Bh5 17.Rc3 Ne6 18.g4 Bg6 19.Be3 a5 20.Bc2 Bb4 21.Rb3 f5 22.exf6 Bxc2 23.Qxc2 Qxf6 24.Ne5 c5 25.Nd7 Qf7 26.Nxf8 Rxf8 27.Qf5 Vachier Lagrave,M (2789)-Anand,V (2760) Stavanger 2018 CBM 185 [Szabo,Krisztian] 0-1 (40)]
13.Bc2 Bg4 14.f3 The position is equal. **14...Bh5 15.Nf1N**
[15.Bf5 Ne6 16.N2b3 Rfd8 17.Be3 Bf8 18.h4 Re8 19.Bf2 Bg6 20.Bg4 h5 21.Bh3 Ncxd4 22.cxd4 Bb4 23.Re2 Qd8 24.a3 Bf8 25.g3 a5 26.f4 a4 27.Nc1 f5 28.Qd3 c5 29.Bxf5 c4 Ding Liren vs. Leko,P (2764)-4. ♘f3 a6 5.a4 b6_45598 (2709) Russia 2018 200 Traps In The Opening [List,Paul M] 1-0 (53) 30.Qc2 Bxf5 31.Qxf5 Qb6 32.Qg6 Qa7 33.Rd2 Qf7 34.Qxf7+ Kxf7 35.f5 Nc7 36.Ne2 b4 37.axb4 Bxb4 38.Rdd1 Nb5 39.Nf4 Red8 40.Kf1 a3 41.bxa3 Rxa3 42.Rxa3 Nxa3 43.Ra1 c3 44.Ke2 c2 Yu,Y (2764)-Vitiugov,N (2709) Shenzhen CHN 2018 [Mikhalevski,V] 1-0 (53)]
15...Bg6

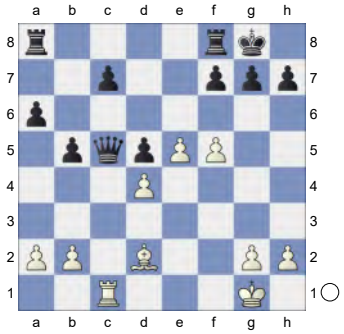


16.f4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Ne4 19.Nd2 Bb4 20.Nxe4 Bxe1

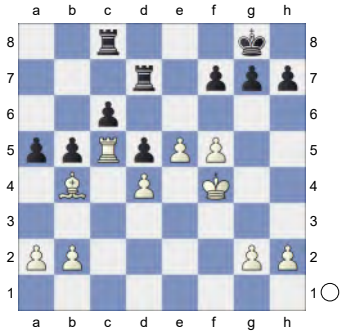


21.Nc5 Qc6 22.Bd2 Against Bb4
22...Bh4 23.f5 Be7 24.Rc1 Bxc5 -0.21/20
[Black should play 24...Qe8!∓ -1.18/17]

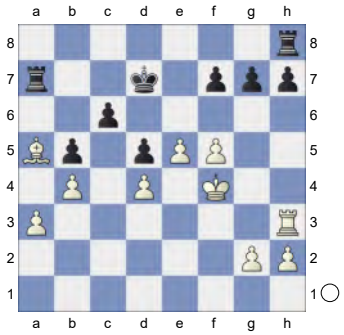
25.Qxc5= Qxc5



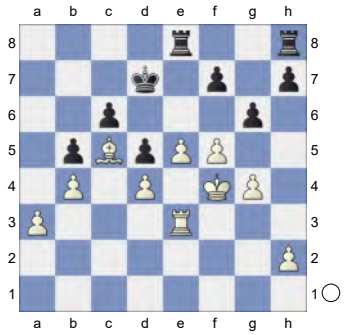
26.Rxc5∓ Endgame KRR-KRB **26...c6 27.Kf2 Rac8** 0.30/21
[27...a5 -0.01/20 might be stronger.]
28.Bb4 Rfd8 29.Kf3 Rd7 30.Kf4 a5



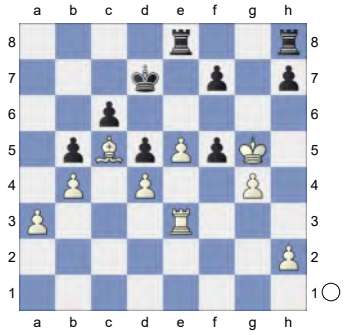
31.Bxa5 Ra7 32.b4 White has compensation. **32...Kf8 33.Rc3 Ke7 34.a3 Kd7** 0.96/21
[34...Ra6= 0.21/22 keeps the balance.]
35.Rh3 0.24/24
[35.Bb6± 0.96/21 Raa8 36.Re3]
35...Rh8=



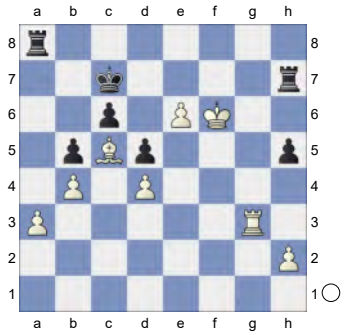
36.Bb6 Raa8 37.Bc5 Rag8 38.Re3 aiming for e6+. **38...Re8** 1.33/20 Inhibits e6+.
[38...g5+= 0.28/23 remains equal. 39.Kg3 h5]
39.g4!± &Bianco is more active. **39...g6?** 2.59/23
[Black should try 39...h6!± 0.49/23]



40.Kg5!+- gxf5

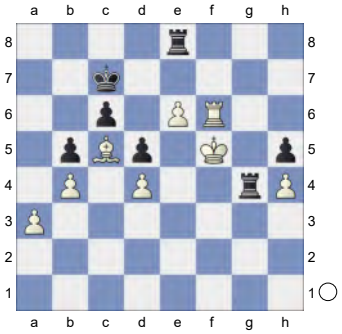


41.gxf5 Kf6 is the strong threat. **41...h5 42.Kf6 Rh7 43.Rg3** And now Rg7 would win. **43...Ra8?** 8.16/27
[43...Rc8 3.82/31 44.e6+ fxe6]
44.e6+? 2.49/24
[44.Rg7 8.16/27 Rxg7 45.Kxg7]
44...fxe6 45.fxe6+ Kc7

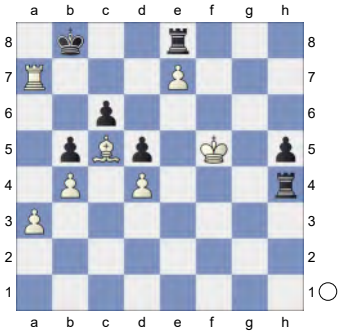


46.h4 Re8 47.Rg6 Prevents Rh6. **47...Kd8 48.Ke5 Kc7 49.Rf6 Rg7**

50.Kf5? 0.78/27
[50.Bf8+- 2.64/22 is more deadly. Rg4 51.Rf7+ Kc8 52.Kd6]
50...Rg4 6.28/23
[50...Rg2± 0.78/27]

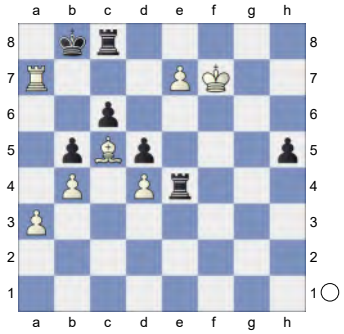


51.Rf7+ Kc8 52.Ra7 Strongly threatening Ra8+. **52...Kb8** Against Ra8+ **53.e7?** 2.15/25
[Worse is 53.Ra6 Rxh4 54.Rxc6 Kb7 55.Rb6+ Kc7=]
[53.Rd7 5.51/24]
53...Rxh4

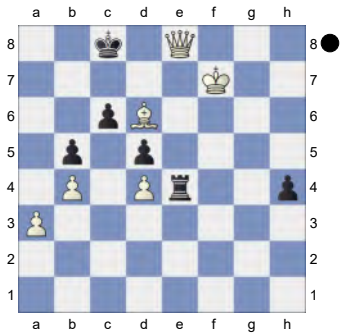


54.Ke6 1.09/25
[54.Rd7!+- 2.21/25 and White stays clearly on top. Rd8+ would kill now. Kc8 55.Ke6]
54...Re4+± 55.Kf7 0.01/24
[55.Kd6± 1.02/25]
55...Rc8? 9.34/23
[55...Rh8= 0.01/24]

(Diagram)



56.Rd7+- White threatens Bd6+ and mate. **56...h4 57.Bd6+** White mates. **57...Ka8 58.Rd8 Kb7 59.Rxc8 Kxc8 60.e8Q+?** 2.88/5
[60.Be5 #11/24 mates Rxe5 61.dxe5 h3 62.e8Q+ Kc7 63.e6 h2 64.Qh8 h1B 65.Qxh1]

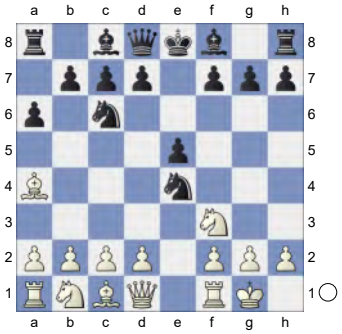


Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.56
1-0

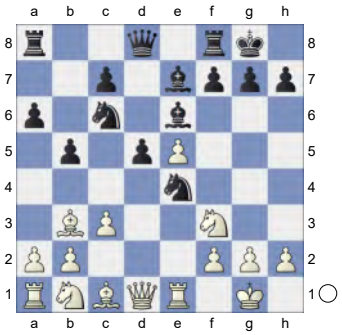
21 **C83**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2831**
■ **Aronian,Levon** **2747**
World Blitz 2024 (7.1) 30.12.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Bb3 d5 9.dxe5 Be6 10.c3 0-0



11.Nbd2 Nc5 12.Nd4 Qd7

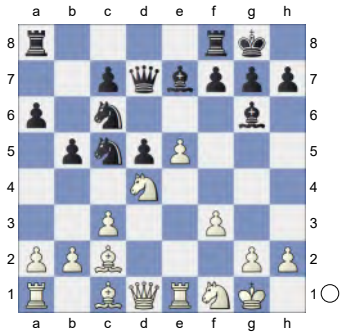
[12...Nxb3? 13.Nxc6! Qe8 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Nxb3+-]

[12...Nxd4 13.cxd4 Nd3 14.Re3 Nf4 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.h3 Bh5 17.Rc3 Ne6 18.g4 Bg6 19.Be3 a5 20.Bc2 Bb4 21.Rb3 f5 22.exf6 Bxc2 23.Qxc2 Qxf6 24.Ne5 c5 25.Nd7 Qf7 26.Nxf8 Rxf8 27.Qf5 Vachier Lagrave,M (2789)-Anand,V (2760) Stavanger 2018 CBM 185 [Szabo,Krisztian] 0-1 (40)]

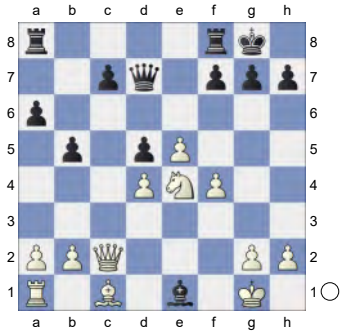
13.Bc2 Bg4 Against Qh5 **14.f3** The position is equal. **14...Bh5 15.Nf1N** -0.22/20

[⩲15.Bf5 0.09/19 Ne6 16.N2b3 Rfd8 17.Be3 Bf8 18.h4 Re8 19.Bf2 Bg6 20.Bg4 h5 21.Bh3 Ncxd4 22.cxd4 Bb4 23.Re2 Qd8 24.a3 Bf8 25.g3 a5 26.f4 a4 27.Nc1 f5 28.Qd3 c5 29.Bxf5 c4 30.Qc2 Bxf5 31.Qxf5 Ding Liren vs. Leko,P (2764)-4. ♘f3 a6 5.a4 b6_45598 (2709) Russia 2018 200 Traps In The Opening [List,Paul M] 1-0 (53) Qb6 32.Qg6 Qa7 33.Rd2 Qf7 34.Qxf7+ Kxf7 35.f5 Nc7 36.Ne2 b4 37.axb4 Bxb4 38.Rdd1 Nb5 39.Nf4 Red8 40.Kf1 a3 41.bxa3 Rxa3 42.Rxa3 Nxa3 43.Ra1 c3 44.Ke2 c2 45.Be3 Nb5 46.Kd3 Yu,Y (2764)-Vitiugov,N (2709) Shenzhen CHN 2018 [Mikhalevski,V] 1-0 (53)]

15...Bg6



16.f4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 aiming for Bxg6. **17...Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Ne4 19.Nd2 Bb4 20.Nxe4 Bxe1**

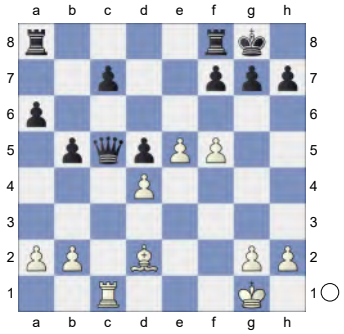


21.Nc5 Qc6 22.Bd2 Inhibits Bb4. **22...Bh4 23.f5 Be7 24.Rc1 Bxc5** 0.01/20

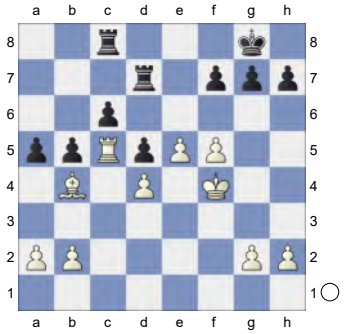
[24...Rfe8!∓ -1.03/17]

25.Qxc5= Qxc5

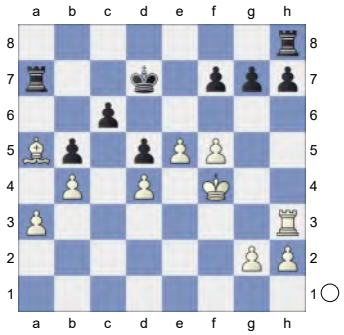
(Diagram)



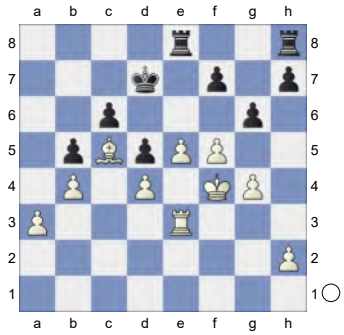
26.Rxc5∓ Endgame KRR-KRB **26...c6** **27.Kf2 Rac8 28.Bb4** -0.07/18
[⌓28.g4 0.30/21]
28...Rfd8 0.30/19
[⌓28...h5 -0.07/18]
29.Kf3 Rd7 30.Kf4 a5



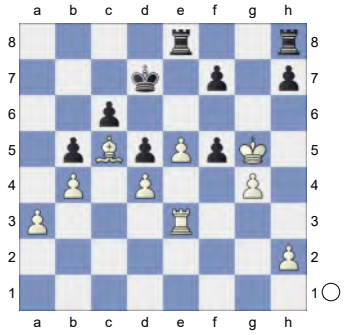
31.Bxa5 Ra7 32.b4 White has compensation. **32...Kf8 33.Rc3 Ke7 34.a3 Kd7** 0.90/23
[34...Ra6± 0.48/21]
35.Rh3 0.29/25
[35.Bb6± 0.90/23 Raa8 36.Re3]
35...Rh8=



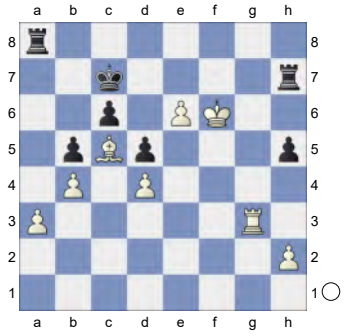
36.Bb6 Raa8 37.Bc5 Rag8 38.Re3 0.01/22
[38.Rf3!± 0.40/23 is superior.]
38...Re8 0.83/21
[38...g5+= 0.01/22 39.Kg3 h5]
39.g4 &Bianco is more active. **39...g6?** 3.04/21
[Better is 39...h6!± 0.54/26]



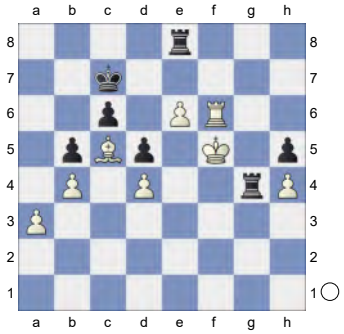
40.Kg5!+- gxf5



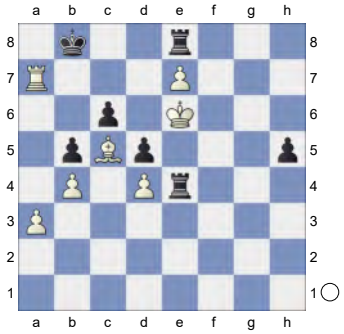
41.gxf5 Black must now prevent Kf6.
41...h5? 6.28/23
[41...Reg8+ 3.47/21 42.Kf6 Ke8]
42.Kf6 Rh7 43.Rg3 Hoping for Rg7.
43...Ra8 8.32/28
[⌓43...Rb8 4.23/30 44.h4 Rd8]
44.e6+? 2.48/22
[44.Rg7 8.32/28 Rxg7 45.Kxg7]
44...fxe6 45.fxe6+ Kc7



46.h4 Re8 47.Rg6 Prevents Rh6. **47...Kd8 48.Ke5 Kc7 49.Rf6 Rg7 50.Kf5?** 0.52/27
[White should play 50.Bf8+- 3.26/25 Rg4 51.Rf7+ Kc8 52.Kd6]
50...Rg4 6.03/25
[50...Rg1± 0.52/27]

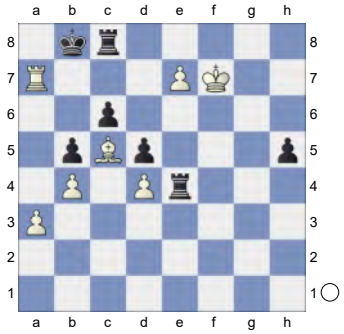


51.Rf7+ Kc8 52.Ra7 Ra8+ would kill now. **52...Kb8** Inhibits Ra8+. **53.e7** 2.55/24
[Stronger than 53.Ra6 Rxh4 54.Rxc6 Kb7 55.Rb6+ Kc7=]
[⌓53.Rd7 5.12/23]
53...Rxh4 54.Ke6 1.35/25
[54.Rd7+- 2.48/23 White threatens Rd8+ and mate. Kc8 55.Ke6]
54...Re4+±

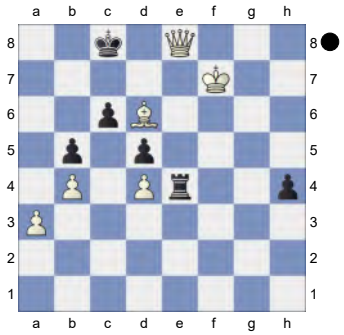


55.Kf7 0.01/22
[White has to play 55.Kd6!± 1.06/24]
55...Rc8? 6.77/23
[55...Rh8= 0.01/22]

(Diagram)



56.Rd7+- Intending Bd6+ and mate. **56...h4 57.Bd6+ Ka8 58.Rd8** 17.27/24
[⌓58.Be5 #13/22 Rxe5 59.dxe5 h3 60.Rd8 Rb8 61.e8Q Rxd8 62.Qxd8+ Kb7 63.e6]
58...Kb7 59.Rxc8 Threatening mate with Rb8+. **59...Kxc8 60.e8Q+?** 2.88/5
[60.Be5 #11/24 mates Rxe5 61.dxe5 h3 62.e8Q+ Kc7 63.e6 h2 64.Qh8 h1B 65.Qxh1]

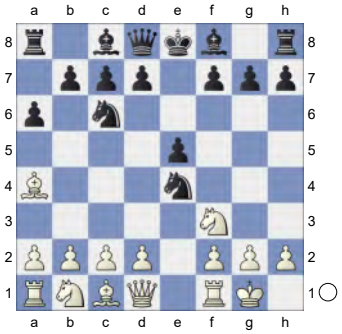


Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/ Black=0.89
1-0

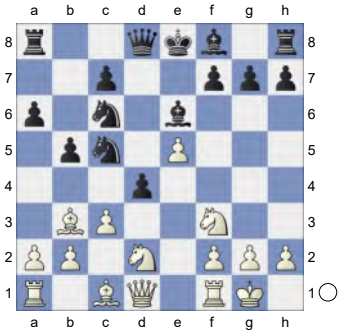
22 **C80**
□ **Leelamultiposs** **3252**
■ **Raspfish** **3026**
Rapid 21.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 5min+5sec
C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



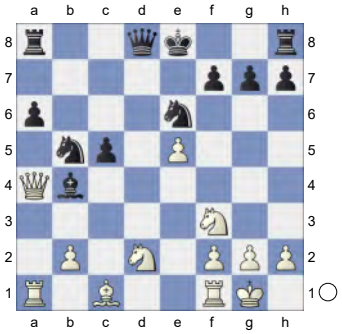
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 d4



11.Bxe6 Nxe6 12.cxd4 Ncxd4 13.a4 Strongly threatening Nxd4. **13...Bb4 14.axb5 Nxb5**

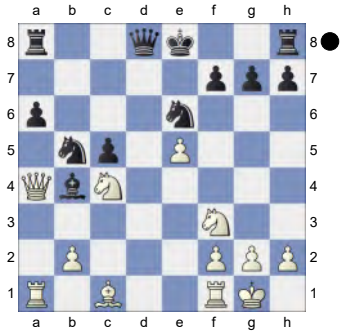
[14...axb5? 15.Rxa8 Qxa8 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qg4+-]

15.Qa4 c5



White has an edge. **16.Nc4**

(Diagram)



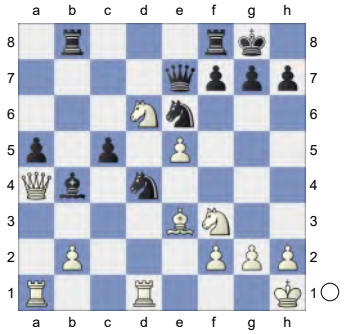
Hoping for Rd1. **16...0-0 17.Be3 Rb8! 18.Rfd1** Inhibits Qd5.

[18.Qd1 Qc8 19.Nd6 Nxd6 20.exd6 c4 21.d7 Qb7 22.Qa4 Bc5 23.Ng5 Bxe3 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.fxe3 Rfd8 26.Qxc4 Qxd7 27.Rxa6 Qd5 28.Qxd5 exd5 29.Rf2 Rb3 30.Re6 Rdb8 31.Re5 Rxb2 32.Rxb2 Rxb2 Grube,J (2764)-Persse,D (2728) Cheliabinsk 2022 ICCF Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] ½-½ (92)]

18...Nbd4 19.Kh1N

[19.Bxd4 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 cxd4 21.Qxa6 Qd5 22.Nb6 Qe6 23.Nc4 Qd5 24.Nb6 Qc6 25.Nc4 Qd5 26.Nb6 1-0 (26) Djukic,N (2493)-Draskovic,L (2153) Gori 2011 CI1-130 [Djukic,Nikola]]

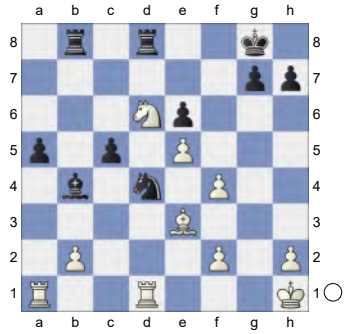
19...a5 20.Nd6⇄ White is not keeping still **20...Qe7**



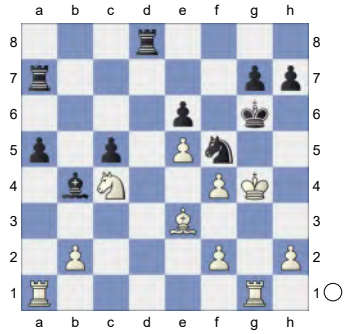
21.Qa2 Nxf3 22.gxf3 Nd4 23.Qd5 Qe6 24.Qxe6

[24.Qe4 with more complications. f5 25.Qf4 Ne2 26.Qc4]

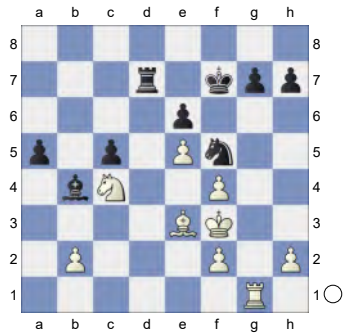
24...fxe6 25.f4 Rfd8



26.Kg2 Nf5 27.Nc4 0.01/20 &Bianco is more active.
[27.Nxf5± 0.64/20 exf5 28.Rac1]
27...Kf7 0.34/21
[27...Rd5!= 0.01/20 feels stronger.]
28.Rg1 Ra8 29.Kf3 Ra7 30.Kg4 Kg6

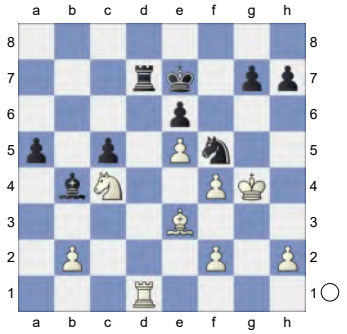


31.Kf3+ Kf7 32.Kg4 -0.01/19
[32.Ke4± 0.38/16]
32...Kg6= 33.Rad1 Rad7 34.Rxd7 The board is on fire. **34...Rxd7 35.Kf3+ Kf7**

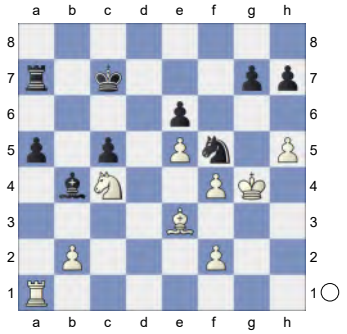


36.Ra1 Ra7 37.Rd1 Ke7! Prevents Rd8. **38.Kg4 Rd7 39.Ra1 Ra7 40.Rd1 Rd7**

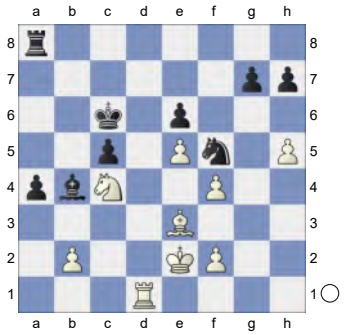
(Diagram)



41.Ra1 -0.01/15
[⌓41.Rc1! 0.30/20]
41...Ra7! 42.h4 Kd8 43.Rd1+ Rd7 44.Ra1 Ra7! 45.h5 Kc7

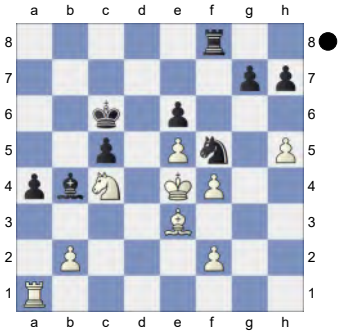


46.Rd1 Ra8 47.Kf3 The position is equal. **47...Rd8** Against Nd6 **48.Ra1 Ra8 49.Rd1 Kc6 50.Ke2 a4**



51.Kf3 Rb8 52.Ke4 Rf8 53.Ra1

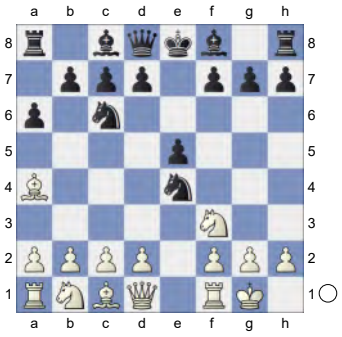
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

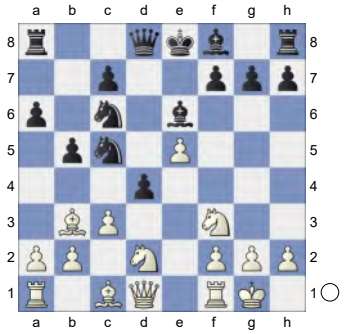
23 **C80**
□ **Leela420** **2994**
■ **Torombot** **3065**
Rapid 28.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 10min
C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

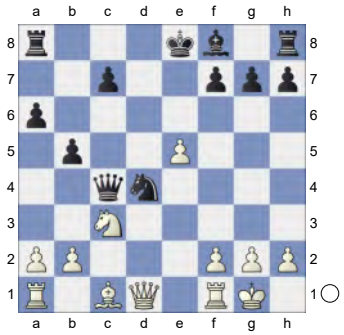


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 d4

(Diagram)

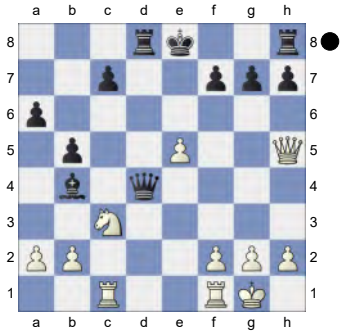


11.Bxe6 Nxe6 12.cxd4 Ncxd4 13.Ne4 Qd5 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Nc3 Qc4

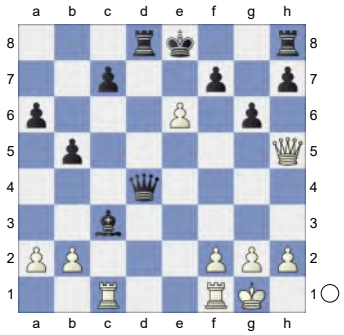


White is slightly better. **16.Be3 Rd8 17.Rc1N**
[17.Bxd4 Bc5 *(17...Rxd4 18.Qf3 Rd8 19.Rfd1 c6 20.e6 fxe6 21.Qh5+ g6 22.Qe5 Rg8 23.Ne4 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Be7 25.Nf6+ Kf7 26.Nxg8 Kxg8 27.b3 Qg4 28.f3 Qf5 29.Qxf5 exf5 30.Rd7 Kf8 31.Kf1* 1-0 (31) Arnold,R (2583)-Evans,D (2390) Ljubljana 2022 CBM 72 ext [John Watson]*)* 18.e6 Rxd4 19.exf7+ Qxf7 *(19...Kxf7 20.Qf3+ Rf4 21.Qb7* C 80/16 *)* 20.Re1+ Kd7 21.Qc2 Bb6 22.a4 b4 23.a5 Ba7 24.Nd1 Qg6 25.Qe2 Kc8 26.Ne3 Rhd8 27.Rac1 Rd2 28.Qc4 R8d7 29.Qxb4 Qf7 30.Qe4 Kb8 31.Qb4+ Kc8 Motylev,A (2624)-Matlakov,M (2682) Russia 2021 [Perunovic,Milos] ½-½ (33)]
17...Bb4 18.Bxd4 Qxd4 19.Qh5

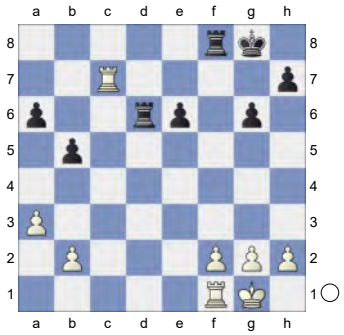
(Diagram)



aiming for Rfd1. **19...Bxc3** 0.49/22
[19...0-0= 0.01/21]
20.e6± g6

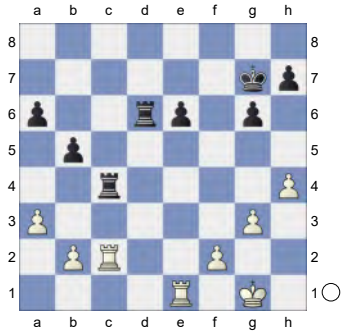


21.Qf3 fxe6 White must now prevent ... Ba5. **22.Rxc3**
[Much weaker is 22.Rfd1 Qe5 23.bxc3 *(23.Rxd8+ Kxd8 24.bxc3 Ke7∓)* 23...Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Ke7=]
22...Qd5 23.Qxd5 0.01/21
[Of course not 23.Rxc7 Qxf3 24.gxf3 0-0∓]
[23.Qf4± 0.38/18]
23...Rxd5= 24.Rxc7± Endgame KRR-KRR **24...0-0 25.a3 Rd6**

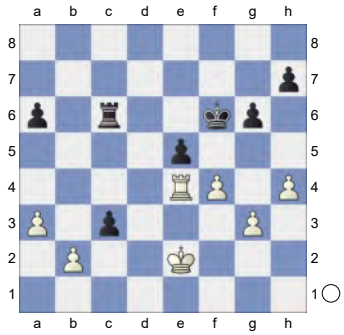


Against Rc6 **26.Re1 Rf7 27.Rc8+ Kg7** The position is equal. **28.h4 Rf8**

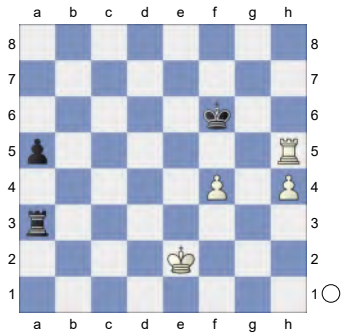
29.Rc2 Rf4 30.g3 Rc4



31.Rxc4 bxc4= KR-KR **32.Re4 Rc6 33.Kf1 Kf6 34.Ke2 e5 35.f4 c3**

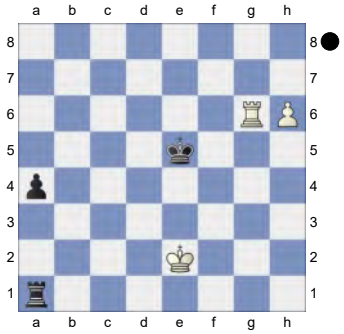


36.bxc3 Rxc3 37.g4 Rxa3 38.Rxe5 h5 39.gxh5 gxh5 40.Rxh5 a5

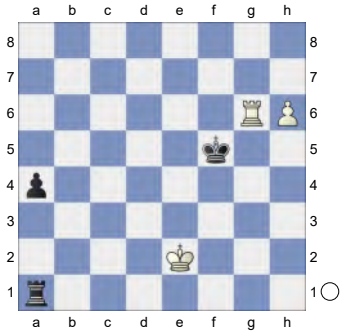


41.f5 a4 42.Rg5 Ra1 43.Rg6+ Kxf5 44.h5 Ke5
[44...a3!? 45.Ra6 Ke4=]
45.h6

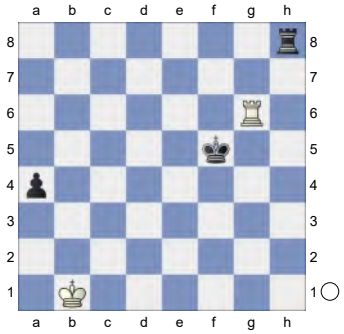
(Diagram)



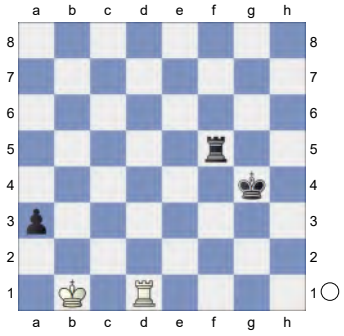
Threatens to win with Rg5+. **45...Kf5**



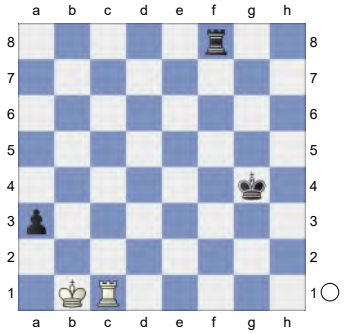
Inhibits Rg5+. **46.h7** Threatening mate with Rf6+! **46...Ra2+ 47.Kd1 Ra1+ 48.Kc2 Ra2+ 49.Kb1 Rh2 50.h8Q Rxh8**



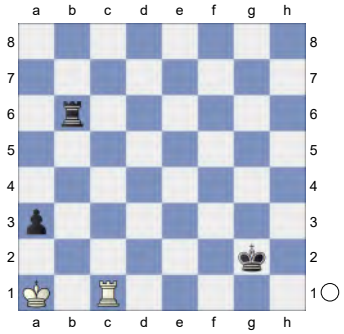
51.Rg1 Rh5 52.Rc1 Kg4 53.Rd1 a3 54.Rc1 Ra5 55.Rd1 Rf5



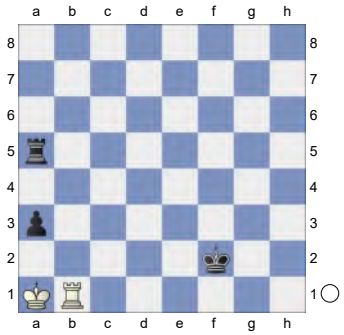
56.Rc1 Ra5 57.Rd1 Rg5 58.Rc1 Rf5 59.Rd1 Rf4 60.Rc1 Rf8



61.Rd1 Kg3 62.Rc1 Rf6 63.Rd1 Kh3 64.Rc1 Rb6+ 65.Ka1 Kg2

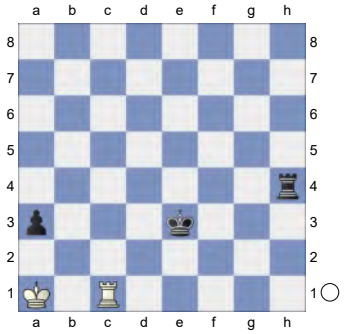


66.Rb1 Rh6 67.Rc1 Rf6 68.Rb1 Kf2 69.Rc1 Ra6 70.Rb1 Ra5

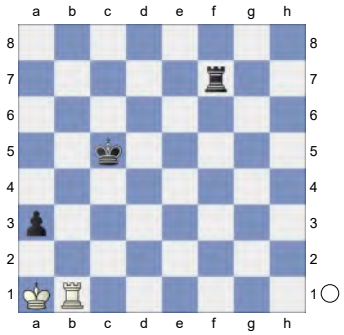


71.Rc1 Ra4 72.Rb1 Rh4 73.Rc1 Rh7 74.Rb1 Rh4 75.Rc1 Ke3

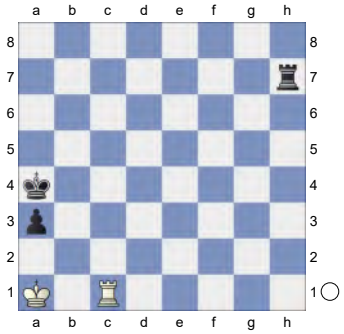
(Diagram)



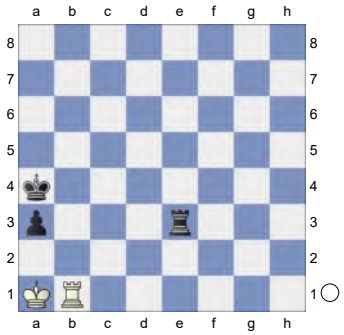
76.Rb1 Rf4 77.Rc1 Rf8 78.Rb1 Rf7 79.Rc1 Kd4 80.Rb1 Kc5



81.Rc1+ Kb5 82.Rb1+ Kc4 83.Rc1+ Kb4 84.Rb1+ Ka4 85.Rc1 Rh7

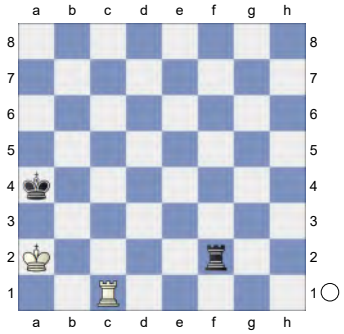


86.Rb1 Rh4 87.Rc1 Rh5 88.Rb1 Ra5 89.Rc1 Re5 90.Rb1 Re3

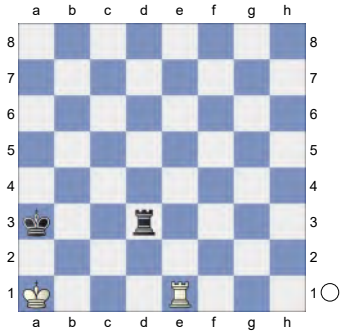


91.Rc1 a2 92.Kxa2 Rb3 93.Ra1 Rg3

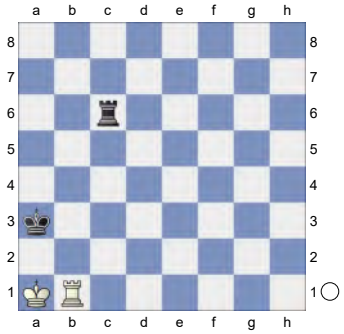
94.Rb1 Rf3 95.Rc1 Rf2+



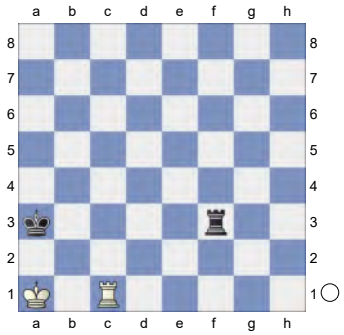
96.Ka1 Ka3 97.Rd1 Rf8 98.Rb1 Rf2 99.Rc1 Rd2 100.Re1 Rd3



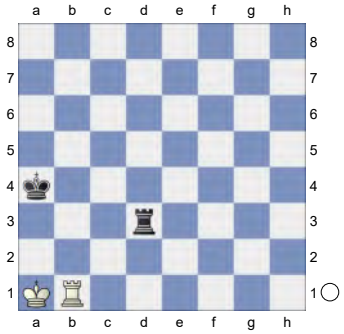
101.Rb1 Re3 102.Rc1 Re6 103.Rb1 Rd6 104.Rc1 Rf6 105.Rb1 Rc6



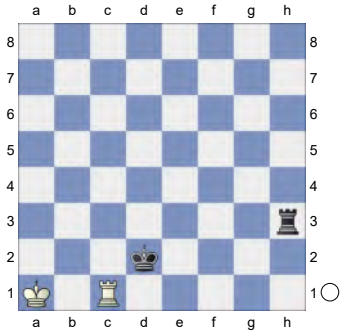
106.Rd1 Rh6 107.Rb1 Ra6 108.Rc1 Ra8 109.Rb1 Rf8 110.Rc1 Rf3



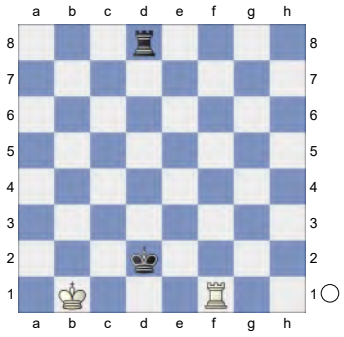
111.Rb1 Rf4 112.Rc1 Ka4 113.Rb1 Rd4 114.Rc1 Rd2 115.Rb1 Rd3



116.Rc1 Kb3 117.Rb1+ Kc2 118.Rb2+ Kc3 119.Rb1 Rh3 120.Rc1+ Kd2

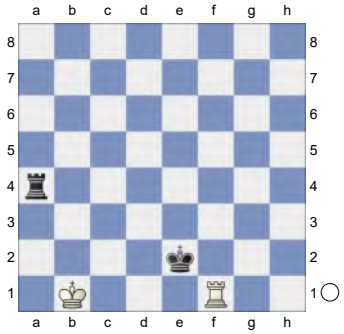


121.Rb1 Rh8 122.Rf1 Rb8 123.Rb1 Re8 124.Rf1 Ra8+ 125.Kb1 Rd8

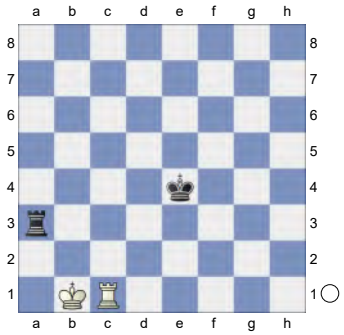


126.Rg1 Ra8 127.Rf1 Ra4 128.Rg1 Ke2 129.Rc1 Kd2 (-> ...Rb4+) **130.Rf1 Ke2**

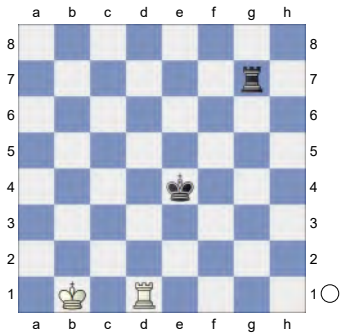
(Diagram)



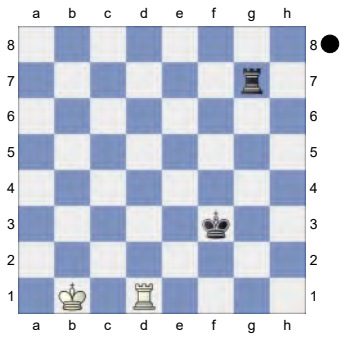
131.Rc1 Ke3 132.Rd1 Ke4 133.Rc1 Ra3 134.Rd1 Ke5 135.Rc1 Ke4



136.Rd1 Rg3 137.Rc1 Rg4 138.Rd1 Rg7 139.Rc1 Kd5 140.Rd1+ Ke4



141.Rc1 Kf3 142.Rd1

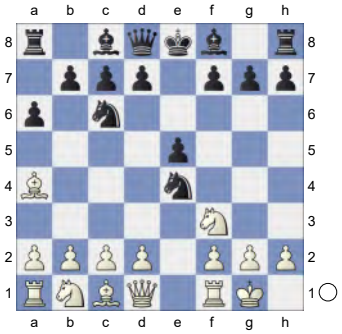


Weighted Error Value: White=0.03

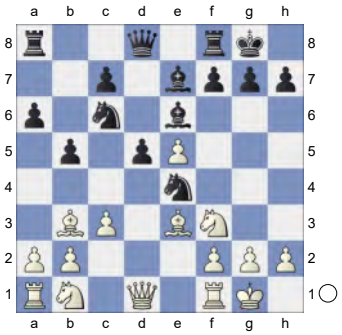
(flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

24 **C83**
□ **Leela420** **2946**
■ **Nikitosik Ai** **2999**
Blitz 20.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
RR: 'Inf 86/(350)' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

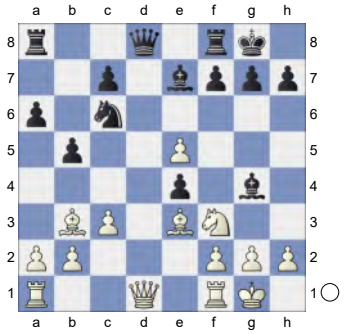


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 0-0

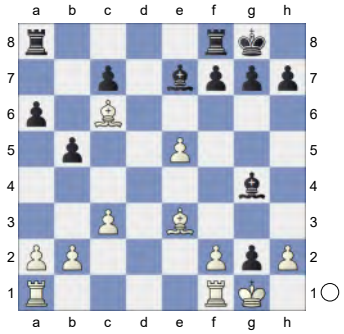


11.Nbd2 Bg4 12.Nxe4 dxe4

(Diagram)

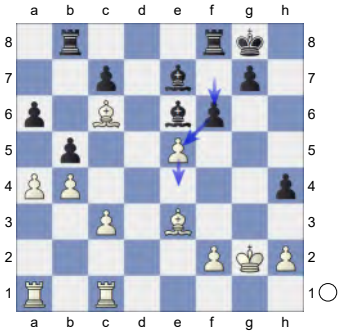


13.Qd5! Qxd5
[13...exf3 with more complications. 14.Qxc6 fxg2 15.Rfd1 Qc8]
14.Bxd5 exf3 15.Bxc6 fxg2

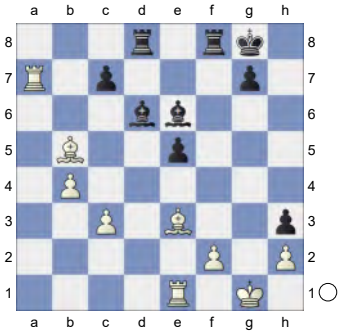


16.Rfc1 Rab8! 17.a3N
[17.a4 bxa4 *(17...b4 18.Bxg2 c5 19.cxb4 Rxb4 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 Rxb2 22.Rc7 Rd8* ½-½ (22) Shkapenko,P (2344)-Two Knights Attack,A (2276) Groningen 2023 Schlechter-Tarrasch [John Watson] *)* 18.Rxa4 Be6 19.b4 Bc4 20.Bxg2 f6 21.Ra5 fxe5 22.Bd5+ Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Rf6 24.Rxe5 Rg6+ 25.Kf1 Bd6 26.Ra5 *(26.Rh5)* 26...Bxh2 27.Rca1 Rg1+ 28.Ke2 Rxa1 29.Rxa1 Be5 30.Rxa6 Bxc3 31.Rc6 Bxb4 Sadvakasov,D (2523)-Kortschnoj,V (2642) Astana 2003 CBM 93 [Postny,Evgeny] ½-½ (44)]
17...h5 18.b4 h4 19.Kxg2 Be6 20.a4 f6

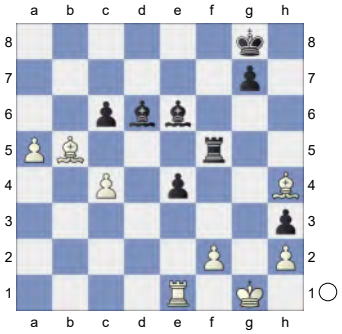
(Diagram)



21.axb5 axb5 22.Re1 h3+
[22...fxe5 23.Ba7 Rbd8 24.Rxe5 h3+ 25.Kg1±]
23.Kg1 Rbd8 24.Bxb5 aiming for Ra6.
24...fxe5 25.Ra7 Bd6

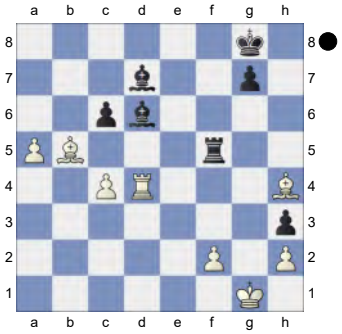


26.Bg5 Prevents Rf6. **26...Ra8 27.Ra5 e4!** Hoping for ...Rxa5. **28.Bh4**
[Of course not 28.Rxe4 Rxa5 29.bxa5 Rf5∓]
28...Rxa5 29.bxa5 With the idea a6.
29...Rf5 30.c4 c6!

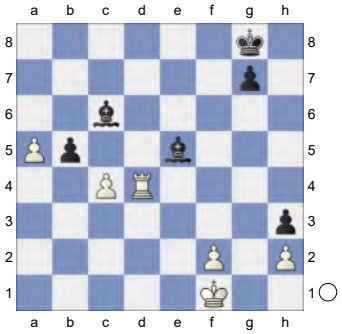


31.Rxe4 Bd7 32.Rd4

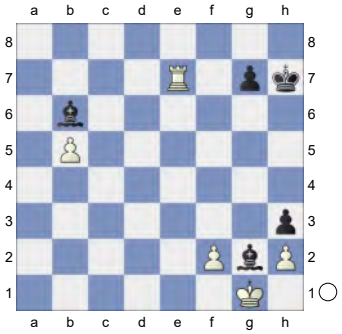
(Diagram)



Re5! 33.Kf1 Prevents Re1+. **33...cxb5 34.Bg3**
[But not 34.Rxd6 Be6 35.f3 Bxc4+ 36.Kf2 b4∓]
34...Bc6 (-> ...Bg2+) **35.Bxe5 Bxe5**

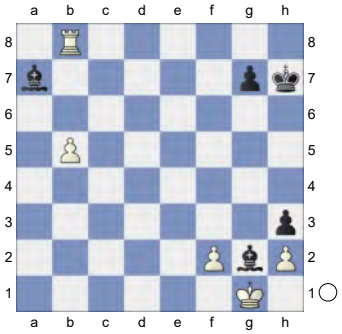


36.Rd8+ Kh7 37.cxb5 Bg2+
This bishop pair is nice.
[Don't do 37...Bxb5+ 38.Kg1 Ba6 39.Rd7±]
38.Kg1 Bc7 39.Rd7 Bxa5 40.Re7 Bb6

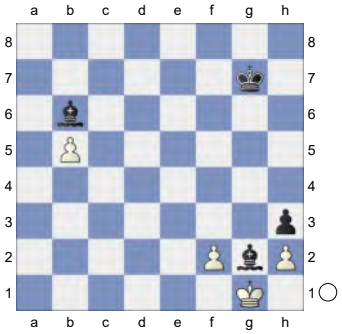


41.Re8 Bd4 42.Rd8 Bc5 43.Rc8 Bd4 44.Rd8 Bc5 45.Rb8 Ba7

(Diagram)



46.Rc8 -0.60/26
[46.Rf8= 0.00/26]
46...Kg6∓ 47.Rc7 Bb6 48.Rxg7+ Kxg7

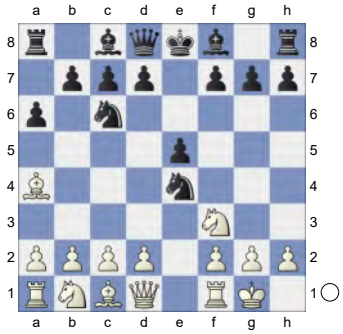


Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

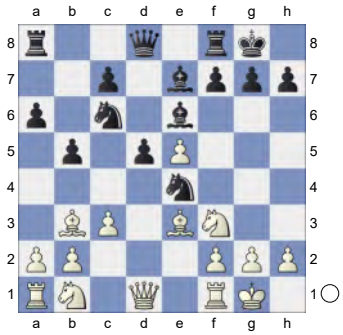
25 **C83**
□ **Duchessai** **2724**
■ **Botswana Compute** **3004**
Blitz 29.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min+2sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

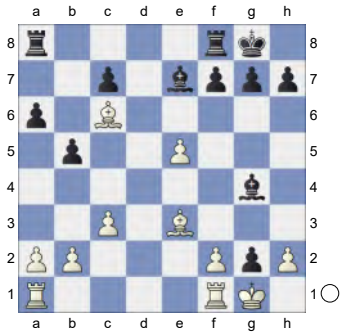
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Be3 0-0



11.Nbd2 Bg4 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Qd5 Qxd5
[13...exf3 keeps more tension. 14.Qxc6 fxg2 15.Rfe1 Qd7]
14.Bxd5 exf3 15.Bxc6 fxg2



16.Rfe1
[16.Rfc1 is more complex. Rab8 17.a4 b4 *(17...bxa4 18.Rxa4 Be6 19.b4 Bc4 20.Bxg2 f6 21.Ra5 fxe5 22.Bd5+ Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Rf6 24.Rxe5 Rg6+ 25.Kf1 Bd6 26.Rh5* Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 0-0 11.♘bd2 ♗g4 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik] *)* 18.cxb4 Rxb4 19.Bxg2 c5

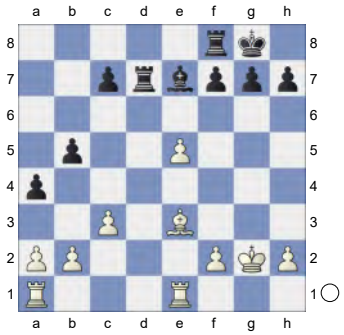
20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 Rxb2 22.Rc6]

16...Rad8 17.Bxg2N

[17.a4 b4 18.cxb4 Bxb4 19.Rec1 Bd2 20.Bxd2 Rxd2 21.b4 f6 22.b5 a5 23.Bxg2 fxe5 24.Rxc7 Bf3 25.Bxf3 Rxf3 26.Rf1 h6 27.Ra7 Rd4 28.Rxa5 Rg4+ 29.Kh1 Rh4 30.b6 Rfh3 31.b7 Rxh2+ Bacrot,E (2715)-Gozzoli,Y (2592) Agen FRA 2017 [Mikhalevski,Victor] ½-½ (37) 32.Kg1 Rh1+ 33.Kg2 R1h2+ 34.Kf3 R2h3+ 35.Kg2 Rh2+ 36.Kf3 R2h3+ 37.Kg2 Rh2+ ½-½ (37) Bacrot,E (2713)-Wang,H (2739) Biel SUI 2012 [Glenn Flear]]

17...a5 18.Bc6 Bd7 19.Bxd7 Rxd7 20.Kg2 a4 0.40/21

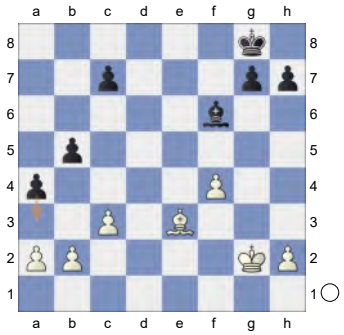
[20...Rd5= -0.19/19]



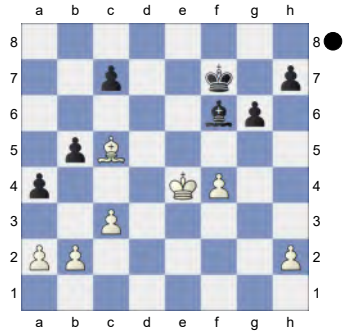
21.Red1 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Black must now prevent Rd7. **22...Rd8** Inhibits Rd7. **23.Rxd8+ Bxd8±** Endgame KB-KB **24.f4** 0.01/22

[24.Kf3± 0.41/23]

24...f5= 25.exf6 Bxf6



26.Bc5 Kf7 Threatening ...Ke6. **27.Kf3 g6 28.Ke4**



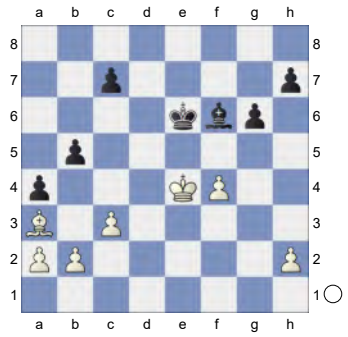
Hoping for Kd5. **28...Ke6 29.Bb4** -1.29/22

[29.Bd4= -0.01/23]

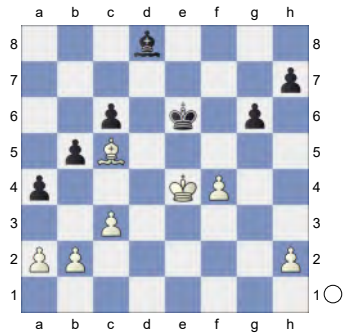
29...Bg7 -0.01/27

[Black should play 29...Kd7∓ -1.29/22]

30.Ba3 The position is equal. **30...Bf6**

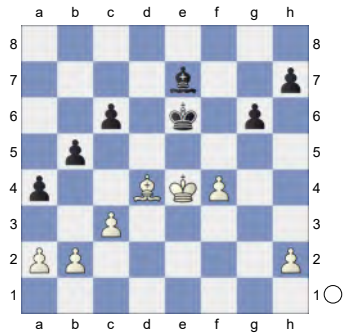


31.Bb4 Bh4 32.Bf8 Bd8 33.Bb4 Bf6 34.Bf8 c6 35.Bc5 Bd8

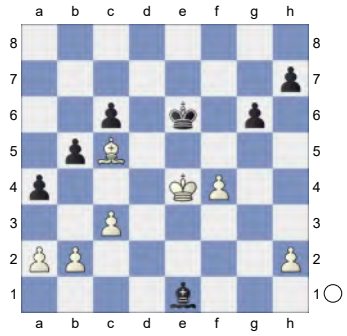


36.Bf2 Be7 37.Bb6 Bd6 38.Be3 Be7 39.Bg1 Kd6 40.Bd4 Ke6

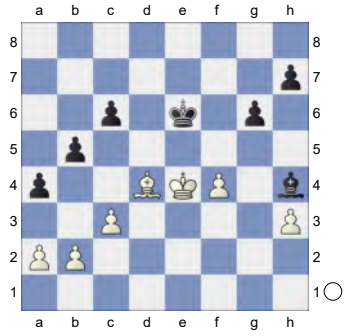
(Diagram)



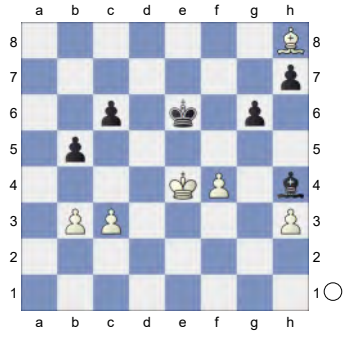
41.Bg1 Bd8 42.Bd4 Bh4 43.Bb6 Be1 44.Bd4 Bd2 45.Bc5 Be1



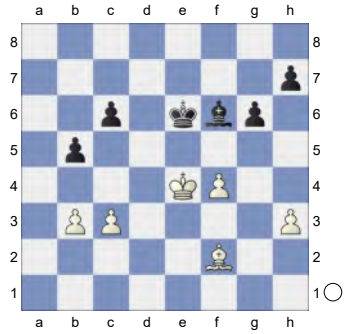
46.h3 Bg3 47.Be3 Be1 48.Bd4 Bh4 49.Bg1 Bf6 With the idea ...a3! **50.Bd4 Bh4**



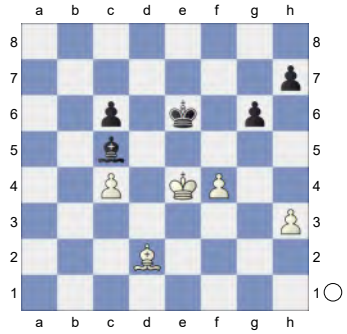
51.b3 axb3 52.axb3 Be1 53.Bh8 Bg3 54.Bg7 Be1 55.Bh8 Bh4



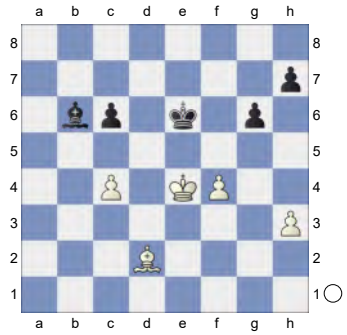
56.Be5 Be7 57.Bd4 Ba3 58.Bf2 Bd6 59.Bb6 Be7 60.Bf2 Bf6



61.c4 bxc4 62.bxc4 Be7 63.Be1 Bc5 64.Ba5 Bd6 65.Bd2 Bc5

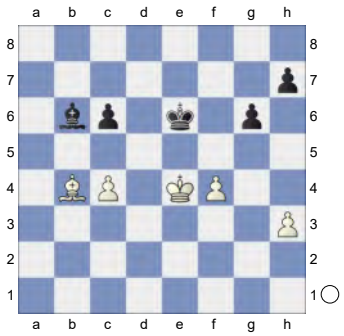


66.Be1 Bg1 67.Bc3 Bf2 68.Bb4 Bb6 69.Bc3 Bc5 70.Bd2 Bb6

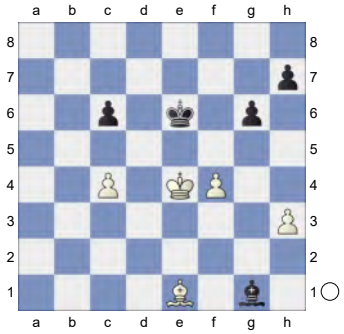


71.Be1 Bg1 72.Bc3 Kd6 73.Bb4+ Ke6 74.Ba3 Bf2 75.Bb4 Bb6

(Diagram)



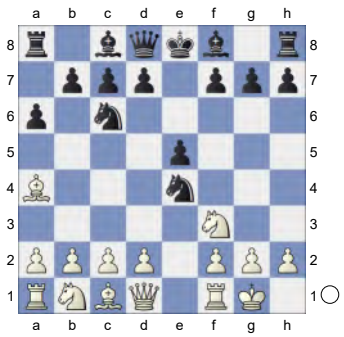
76.Be1 Bg1



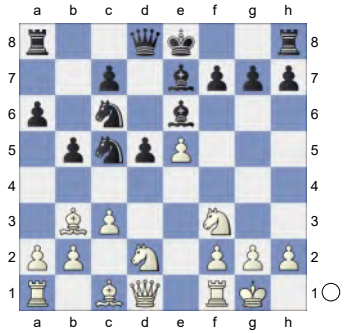
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

26 **C83**
□ **Crazyara** **2717**
■ **Botswana Compute** **3004**
Blitz 29.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

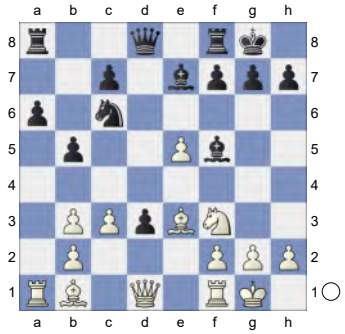
Blitz 3min+2sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



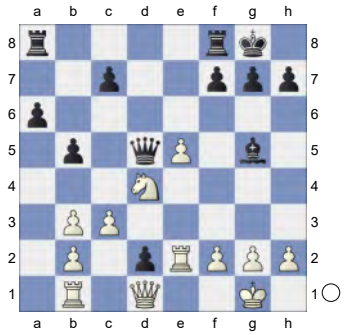
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 0.16/20
[12.Nxd4± 0.52/19 feels stronger. Nxd4 13.cxd4 Qxd4 14.Nf3 Qxd1 15.Rxd1]
12...d3 0.56/21
[12...dxc3= 0.16/20 13.Nxc5 Bxc5]
13.Bb1 0.25/18
[13.Nxc5± 0.56/21 dxc2 14.Qxd8+ Rxd8 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Be3]
13...Nxb3= 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.Be3 0-0**



16.Re1 Qd5 17.Bd4 d2 18.Re2 Bxb1 19.Rxb1 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bg5!



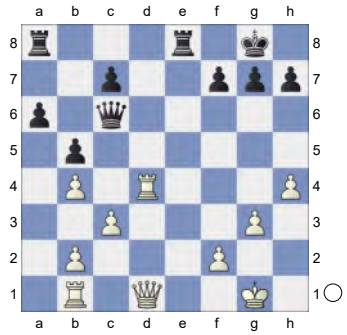
21.h4N

[21.g3 c5 22.Nf5 Qd3 23.Nd6 Qg6 24.h4

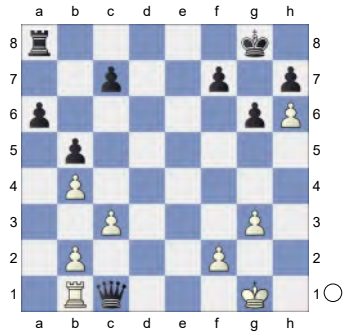
A) 24...Bf4 25.Ne4 f5 26.Nxd2 Rad8 27.Ra1 Rfe8 28.Qe1 Bxd2 *(28...Rd5 29.e6 Bxd2 30.Rxd2 Rxd2 31.Qxd2 Qxe6* Line Be3 [GM Mihail Marin] (31)*)* 29.Rxd2 Rxd2 30.Qxd2 Rxe5 31.Qd8+ Re8 32.Qd5+ Qe6 33.Rd1 c4 34.bxc4 bxc4 35.Qb7 Re7 36.Rd8+ Kf7 37.Qf3 g6 38.Qf4 Qc6 39.Rd1 Deslandes,P (2827)-Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2820) Saint Louis USA 2018 200 Traps In The Opening [Najdorf/Guimard/Skalicka/González,JA_16571] 1-0 (64);

B) 24...Bxh4 25.Rxd2 Open Spanish Open Spanish]

21...Bf4 22.g3 Bxe5 23.Rxd2 Bxd4 24.Rxd4 Qc6 25.b4 Rfe8



26.Rd5 g6 27.h5 Re1+ 28.Qxe1 Qxd5 Endgame KQR-KQR **29.h6 Qg5! 30.Qc1 Qxc1+**



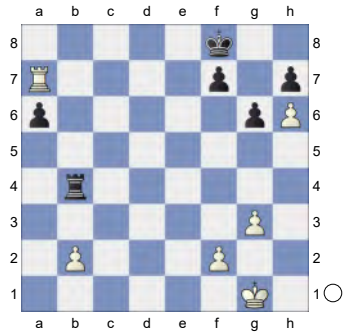
31.Rxc1± KR-KR **31...Rd8 32.c4 bxc4 33.Rxc4 Kf8 34.Rxc7**

[34.b5!?]

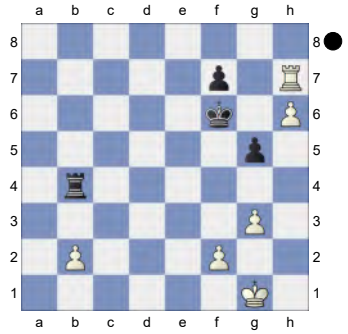
34...Rb8 Prevents Rb7. **35.Ra7** 0.01/27

[35.Rc4± 0.33/21]

35...Rxb4=



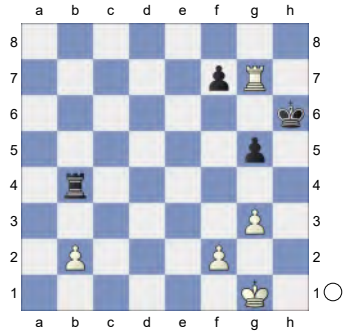
36.Rxa6 Ke7 37.Ra8 Kf6 38.Rh8 g5 39.Rxh7



And now Rg7 would win. **39...Kg6** 0.87/30

[39...Rxb2= 0.18/28 remains equal. 40.Rh8 Kg6]

40.Rg7+± Kxh6



41.Rxf7 Rxb2

[Don't play 41...Kg6 42.Ra7±]

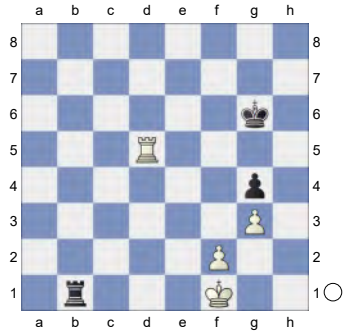
42.Rf6+ 0.42/30

[42.g4± 0.88/31]

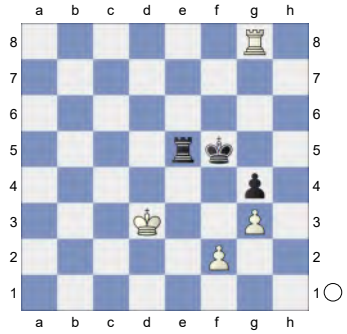
42...Kh5!± 43.Rf5 Kg6 44.Rd5 0.01/32

[44.g4± 0.77/31]

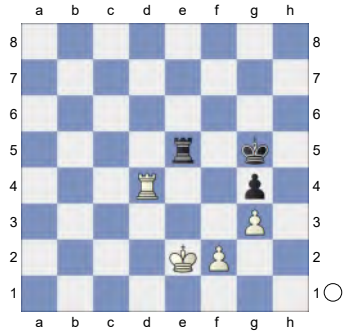
44...g4= 45.Kf1 Rb1+



46.Ke2 Rb3 47.Rd3 Rb5 48.Rd8 Re5+ 49.Kd3 Kg5 50.Rg8+ Kf5



51.Rf8+ Kg6 52.Rf4 Kg5 53.Kd2 Rb5 54.Rd4 Rf5 55.Ke2 Re5+



56.Kd3 Ra5 0.45/31

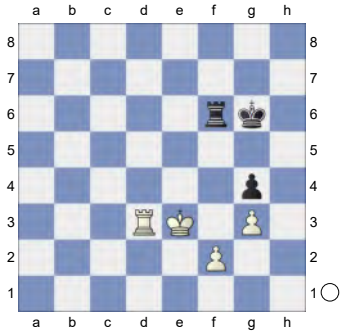
[56...Rf5= 0.01/33 deserves consideration.]

57.Ke4 0.01/28

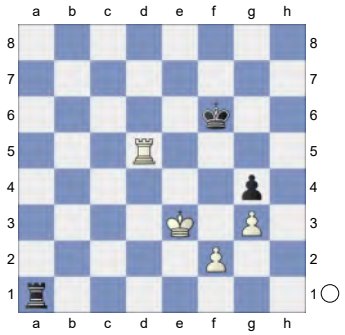
[57.Rb4± 0.45/31]

57...Ra3 58.Rd5+ Kg6 59.Rd3 Ra6 60.Ke3 Rf6

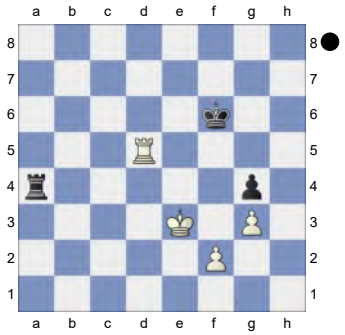
(Diagram)



61.Rd5 Rf3+ 62.Ke2 Ra3 63.Rd3 Ra1 64.Ke3 Kg5 65.Rd5+ Kf6

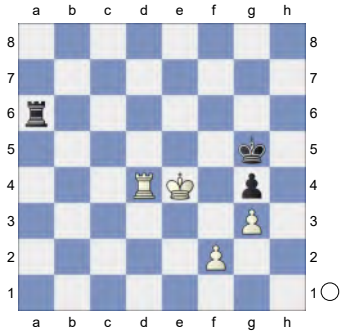


66.Kf4 Ra4+ 67.Ke3



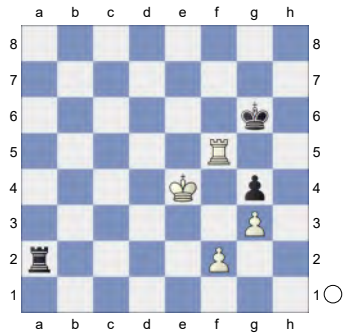
Black must now prevent Rd4. **67...Ra3+ 68.Rd3 Ra1 69.Ke4 Ra6 70.Rd4**

Threatens to win with Kf4. **70...Kg5**

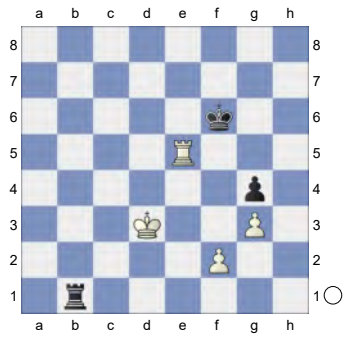


71.Rd5+ Kf6 72.Kf4 Ra4+ 73.Ke3

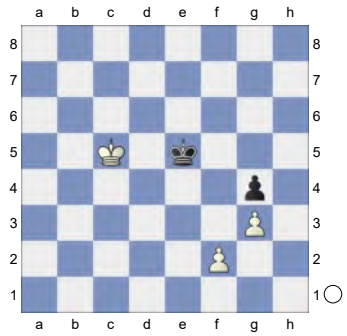
Rd4 is the strong threat. **73...Ra1 74.Ke4 Ra2 75.Rf5+ Kg6**



(-> ...Ra4+) **76.Rf8 Re2+ 77.Kd3 Re1 78.Rf4 Kg5 79.Re4 Rb1 80.Re5+ Kf6**

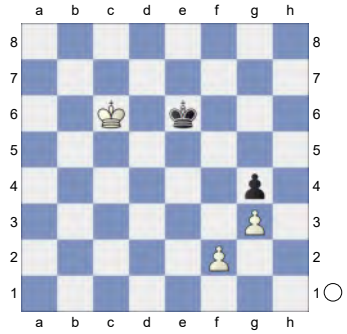


81.Rc5 Rb3+ 82.Rc3 Rb5 83.Kd4 Kf5 84.Rc5+ 0.01/27
[84.Ra3± 0.32/22]
84...Rxc5 The position is equal. **85.Kxc5** KPP-KP **85...Ke5**

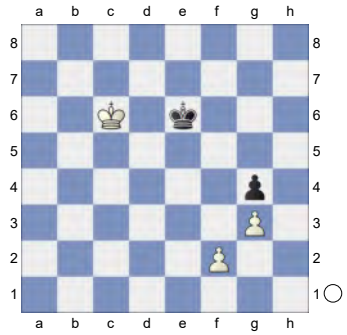


86.Kc6! Ke6! 87.Kc7 White threatens Kc6 and mate. **87...Ke7 88.Kc8 Ke8 89.Kc7** White wants to mate with Kd6. **89...Ke7 90.Kc6 Ke6**

(Diagram)



91.Kc5 Kd4 would kill now. **91...Ke5**
92.Kc6! Intending Kc5 and mate.
92...Ke6!

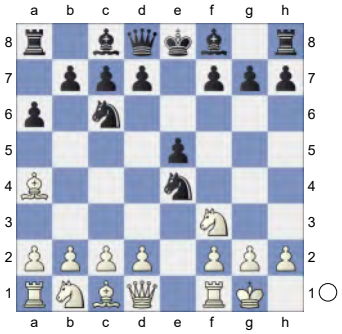


Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

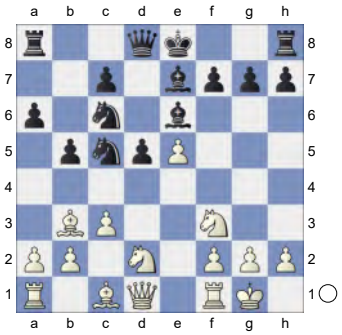
27	**C83**
□ **Pawn Git**	**2717**
■ **Botswana Compute**	**2988**
Blitz	29.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]	

Blitz 3min+2sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7



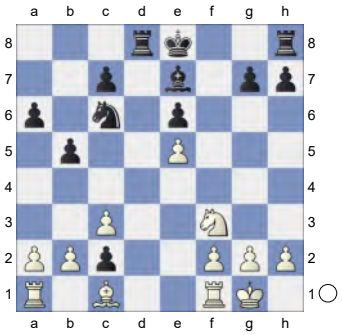
11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Nxc5

[13.Bb1 is interesting. Nxb3 14.axb3 Bf5 15.Be3]

13...dxc2 14.Qxd8+ Rxd8

[14...Bxd8 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Be3±]

15.Nxe6 fxe6

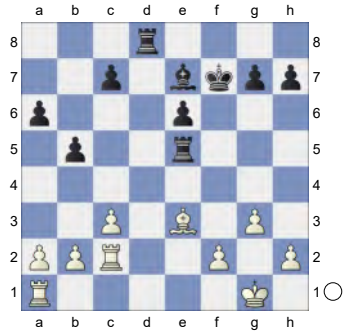


16.Be3 Against Bc5 **16...Rd5 17.Rfc1 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Rxe5 19.Rxc2 Kf7 20.g3**

[20.c4 b4 21.Rd1 Rd8 22.Rxd8 Bxd8 23.Kf1 Bg5 24.Bxg5 Rxg5 25.b3 Kf6 26.Rd2 Ra5 27.Ke2 h6 28.Ke3 Re5+ 29.Kf3 Rf5+ 30.Ke2 Re5+ 31.Kf3 ½-½ (31) Ding,Y (2392)-Guo,Q (2375) Shaoxing 2024]

20...Rd8

[20...Bg5 21.Bxg5 Rxg5 22.a4 Rd8 23.axb5 axb5 24.Re2 Rgd5 25.Ra6 R8d6 26.Ra7 Rd7 27.Ra6 R7d6 28.Ra7 Rd7 29.Ra6 R7d6 ½-½ (29) Renzewitz,S (2661)-Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2740) Budapest 2023 ZUS D32 [John Watson]]

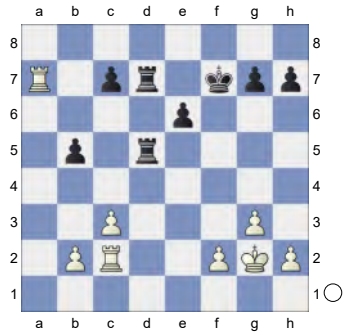


21.Kg2N

[21.h4 Rd7 22.Kg2 Rf5 23.a4 Bc5 24.Bxc5 Rxc5 25.axb5 axb5 26.Re2 g6 27.Ra6 Rd6 28.Ra7 Rd3 29.Ra6 Rd6 ½-½ (29) Predojevic,B (2584)-Stevic,H (2565) Neum 2022]

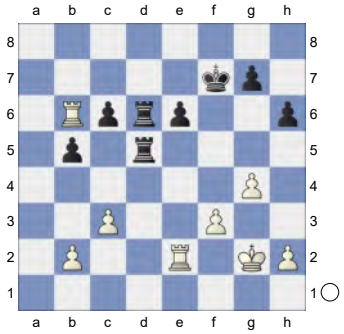
[21.a4 Red5 22.Kg2 Bc5 23.Bxc5 Rxc5 24.axb5 axb5 25.Re2 ½-½ (25) Klovans,J (2433)-Kortschnoj, V (2600) Arvier ITA 2006 [Olivier Renet]]

21...Bg5 22.Bxg5 Rxg5± Endgame KRR-KRR **23.a4 Rgd5 24.axb5 axb5 25.Ra7 R8d7**

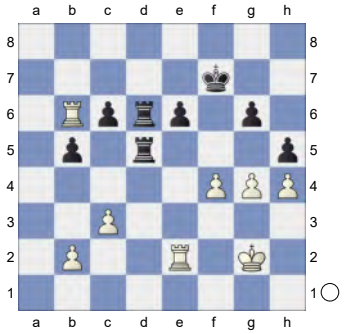


26.Rb7 c6 27.Rb6 Rc5 28.f3 Rcd5

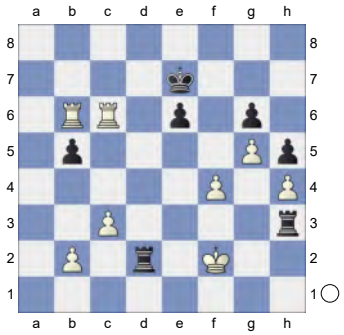
29.Re2 R7d6 30.g4 h6



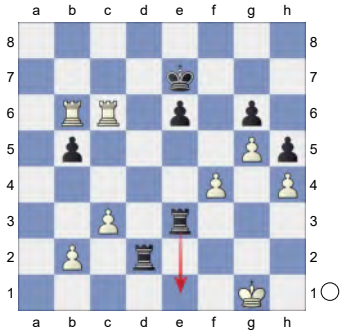
31.Rb7+ Rd7 32.Rb8 Rd8! 33.Rb6 R8d6 34.h4 g6 35.f4 The position is equal. **35...h5**



36.g5 Rd3 37.Re5 Ke7 38.Rc5 Re3 39.Kf2 Rh3 40.Rcxc6 Rd2+



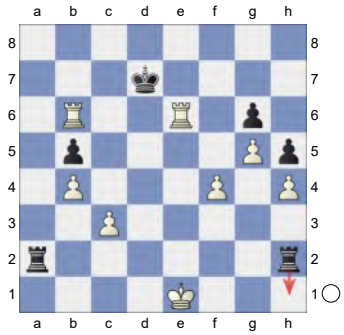
41.Kg1 aiming for Rb7+. **41...Re3**



42.Kf1 Inhibits Re1+. **42...Kd7 43.b4 Rh3 44.Ke1 Rhh2**

[44...Rb2!? 45.Rd6+ Kc7 46.Rdc6+ Kd8 47.Rd6+ Ke7 48.Rxe6+ Kf8 49.Rf6+ Ke8 50.Rbe6+ Kd8 51.Rd6+ Kc8 52.Rc6+ Kd8 53.Rfd6+ Ke8 54.Re6+ Kf8 55.Rf6+ Kg8 56.Rxg6+ Kf8 57.Rgf6+ Kg8 58.Rg6+ Kf8 59.Rgf6+ Kg8 60.Rg6+=]

45.Rxe6 Ra2



46.Red6+!

[46.Rbd6+? Kc7 47.Rc6+ Kb8 48.Rb6+ Ka7 49.Ra6+ Rxa6-+]

46...Ke8

[46...Ke7!? 47.Re6+ Kf7 48.Rf6+ Ke8 49.Rfe6+ *(49.Rbe6+? Kd7-+)* 49...Kd7 50.Red6+ *(50.Rbd6+? Kc7-+)* 50...Ke8 51.Re6+ Kf8 52.Rf6+ Ke8 53.Rfe6+= *(53.Rbe6+? Kd8-+)*]

47.Re6+ Kd8

[47...Kf8!? 48.Rf6+ Kg8 49.Rxg6+ Kf8 50.Rgf6+ Kg8 51.Rg6+ Kf8 52.Rgf6+ Kg8 53.Rg6+=]

48.Red6+!

[48.Rbd6+? Kc7 49.Rc6+ Kb7 50.Rb6+ Ka7 51.Ra6+ Rxa6-+]

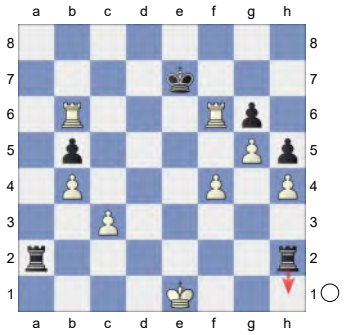
48...Ke7

[48...Ke8!? 49.Re6+ Kf7 50.Rf6+ Kg8 51.Rxg6+ Kf8 52.Rgf6+ Kg8 53.Rg6+ Kf8 54.Rgf6+ Kg8 55.Rg6+=]

49.Re6+ Kf8

[49...Kd7!? 50.Red6+ *(50.Rbd6+? Kc7-+)* 50...Ke7 51.Re6+ Kf7 52.Rf6+ Kg8 53.Rxg6+ Kf8 54.Rbf6+ Ke8 55.Rg8+ Ke7 56.Rg7+ Ke8 57.Rg8+ Ke7 58.Rg7+ Ke8 59.Rg8+=]

50.Rf6+ Ke7



51.Rfe6+! Kf8

[51...Kd8!? 52.Red6+ *(52.Rbd6+? Kc7-+)* 52...Ke8 53.Re6+ Kd8=]

52.Rf6+ Ke8

[52...Ke7!? 53.Rfe6+=]

53.Rfe6+!

[53.Rbe6+? Kd8 54.Rd6+ Kc7 55.Rc6+ Kb8 56.Rb6+ Ka7-+]

53...Kd7

[53...Kf7!? 54.Rf6+ Ke8 55.Rfe6+= *(55.Rbe6+? Kd8-+)*]

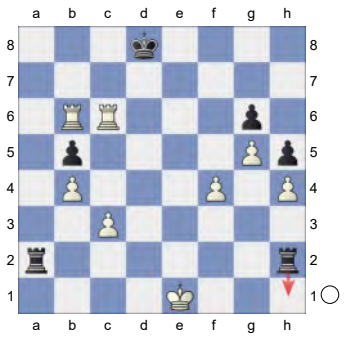
54.Red6+!

[But not 54.Rbd6+? Kc7 55.Rc6+ Kb7 56.Rb6+ Ka7 57.Ra6+ Rxa6-+]

54...Kc8

[54...Ke7!? 55.Re6+=]

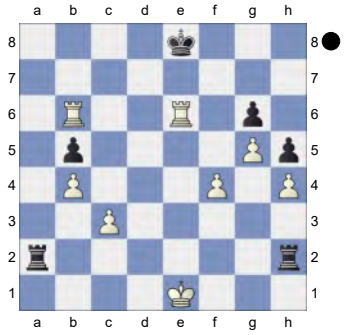
55.Rdc6+ Kd8



56.Rd6+ Ke8

[56...Kc8!? 57.Rdc6+ Kd7 58.Rd6+=]

57.Re6+



Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)

½-½

28 **C83**

□ **Boller1910** **3039**

■ **Mateai** **3040**

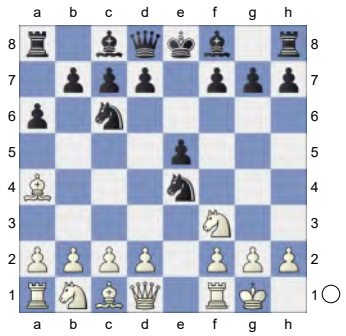
Blitz 14.08.2024

[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min

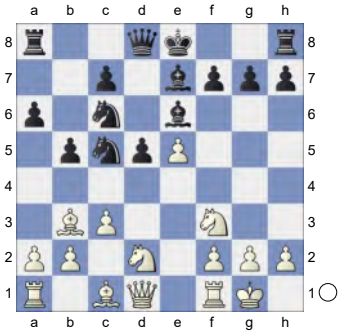
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7

Mikhalevski, V: 'As I promised last month I include the following game in the current update.' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

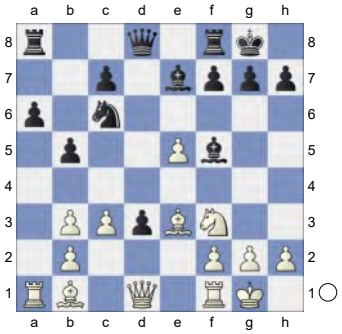


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

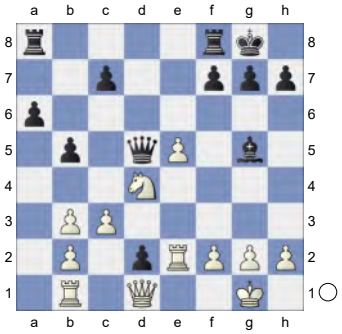
(Diagram)



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 The position is equal. **14...Bf5 15.Be3 0-0**

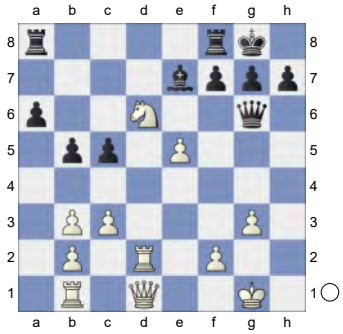


16.Bd4 Qd5!
[16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 *(17.cxd4 c5=)* 17...Bg6 18.b4± *(18.Bxd3 Bxd3 19.Nc6 Qe8±)*]
17.Re1 d2 18.Re2 Bxb1 19.Rxb1 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bg5!



21.g3 c5 22.Nf5 Qd3 23.Nd6 Strongly threatening f4. **23...Qg6 24.h4 Bxh4 25.Rxd2 Be7**

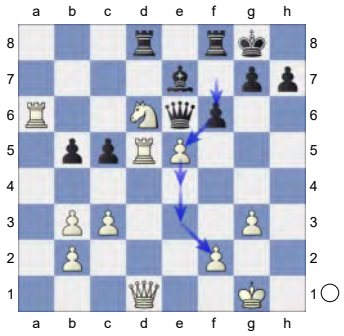
(Diagram)



26.Rd5
[26.Qe1 Qe6 27.Qe3 Bxd6 28.Rxd6 Qxb3 29.Qxc5 Qc2 30.Ra1 Bjerre,J (2438)-Kushagra,M (2283) Porto Carras 2018 [Petronijevic, Zoran]]
26...Rad8N 1.08/20
[26...f6± 0.55/19 27.e6 f5 28.Qd3 Qxe6 29.Nxf5 Bf6 *(29...Rad8 30.Qe3 Qxe3 31.Nxe3 Rxd5 32.Nxd5 Bd8 33.f4 Kf7 34.Kg2 Re8 35.Kf3 Re6 36.g4 Rd6 37.Rd1 h6 38.f5 g6 39.fxg6+ Kg7 40.Ke4 Bg5 41.Ke5 Rc6 42.Rf1 Rxg6 43.Nc7 Be7 44.Ne6+* Caruana,F (2781)-Gelfand,B (2761) Zürich SUI 2014 [Smerdon, David] ½-½ (58) *Kg8 45.Rf4 h5 46.gxh5 Rg2 47.h6 Rxb2 48.Rg4+ Kh8 49.Nf4 Kh7 50.Rg7+ Kxh6 51.Rxe7 Rxb3 52.Nd5 Rb1 53.Kd6 c4 54.Ra7 Ra1 55.Kc5 Kg5 56.Kb6 Rd1 57.Nb4 Rc1 58.Na2* 1-0 (58) Caruana,F (2767)-L'Ami,E (2611) Reykjavik ISL 2012 [Mikhalevski, V]*)* 30.Rd1 Rad8 31.Ne3 *(31.Qe3 Qxe3 32.Nxe3 Rxd5 33.Nxd5 b4 34.Ra1 Rb8 35.cxb4 Bxb2 36.Ra2 Bd4 37.Rxa6 Kf7 38.bxc5 Rxb3 39.c6 Rxg3+ 40.Kf1 Rf3 41.Ra2 Ke6 42.Nc7+ Kf7 43.Nb5 Be5 44.c7 Bxc7 45.Nxc7 g5* Bruzon Batista,L (2689)-Mikhalevski,V (2552) Arlington 2013 CBM 183 [Marin,Mihail] 1-0 (60)*)*

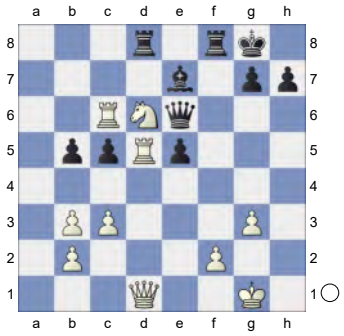
31...Bg5 32.Rxd8 Rxd8 33.Nd5 Rf8 34.Nc7 Qxb3 35.Qe2 Qf7 36.Nxa6 c4 37.Nc5 Re8 38.Ne4 Chapter-Game Game 3 (38)]

27.Ra1± Qe6 28.Rxa6 f6

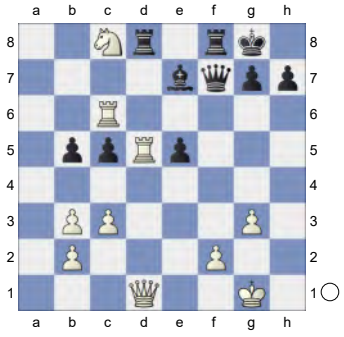


29.Rc6! &Bianco is much more active.
[29.Rxc5 fxe5 30.Rxb5 *(30.Qd5 Qxd5 31.Rxd5 Rf6∓)* 30...Rxd6 31.Rxd6 Bxd6∓]

29...fxe5



30.Nc8! Qf7



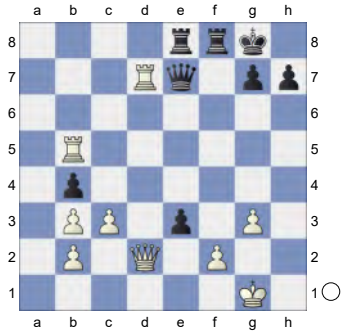
31.Nxe7+ Qxe7 32.Qd2 b4 1.90/23
[32...e4± 1.32/20]

33.Rcxc5+- Rde8 2.34/22
[⌓33...bxc3 1.87/21 34.bxc3 Qxc5 35.Rxd8 Rxd8 36.Qxd8+ Kf7]

34.Rb5 Threatens to win with Rd7.
[34.cxb4?! e4±]

34...e4 35.Rd7
[35.cxb4?! e3 36.fxe3 *(36.Qxe3 Qxe3 37.fxe3 Rxe3=)* 36...Qxe3+ 37.Qxe3 Rxe3=]
[35.Rxb4 Qf7 36.Kh2 Qxf2+ 37.Qxf2 Rxf2+ 38.Kg1 e3∓]

35...e3

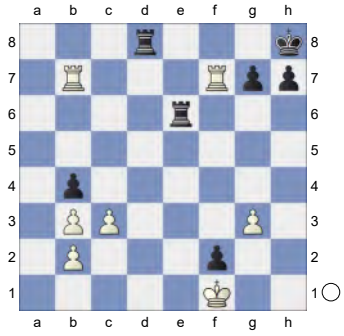


36.Qd5+ Qe6 37.Rbb7 0.95/24
[37.Qxe6++- 1.71/24 Rxe6 38.fxe3 *(38.Rxb4 exf2+ 39.Kh2 f1Q)*]

37...exf2+± 38.Kf1 Kh8 (-> ...Qe2+)
[38...Qxd5? leads to mate. 39.Rxg7+ Kh8 40.Rxh7+ Kg8 41.Rbg7#]

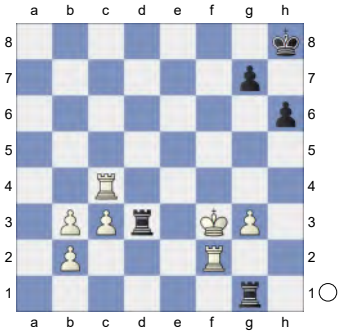
39.Qxe6 Dancing on a razor blade.

39...Rxe6 Endgame KRR-KRR **40.Rf7 Rd8**

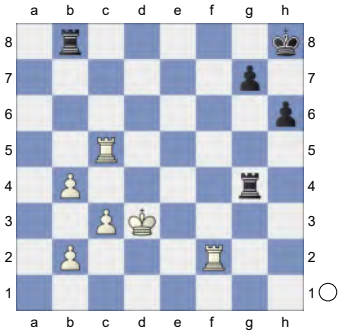


41.Rxb4 h6 1.78/20
[41...h5± 1.39/22 might work better. 42.Rbb7 *(42.Rxf2 Rd1+ 43.Kg2 Kh7+-)* 42...Rd1+ 43.Kxf2 Rd2+ 44.Kf3 Rxb2]

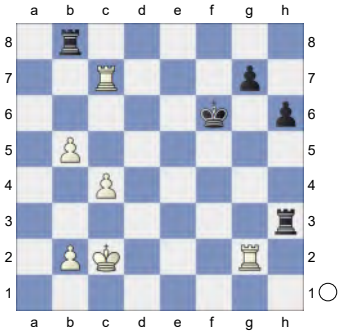
42.Rxf2+- Rd1+ 43.Kg2 Ree1 44.Rc4 Rg1+ 45.Kf3 Rd3+



46.Ke4 Rdxg3 47.b4 Black must now prevent b5. **47...Re1+** 2.38/20
[47...Kh7 1.96/19 is a better defense. 48.Rc5 R3g2]
48.Kd4 Re8 49.Rc5 Rg4+ 50.Kd3 Rb8

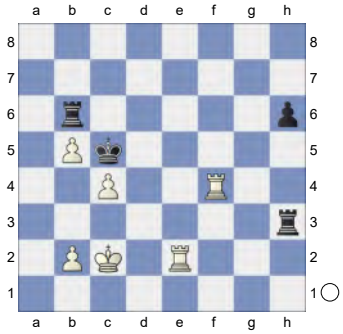


51.b5 Kg8 52.c4 Rg3+ 53.Kc2 Rh3 4.56/21
[⌓53...Rb6 2.89/17 54.Rc8+ Kh7]
54.Rg2 Kf7 55.Rc7+ Kf6

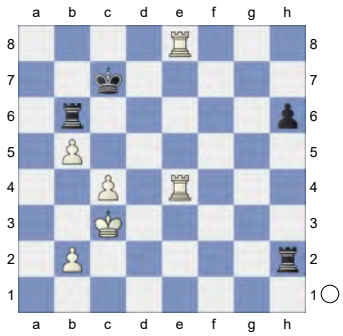


56.Rcxg7 Kf5 57.Rg8 Rb6 10.14/25
[⌓57...Rb7 5.18/20 58.R2g7 Rb6 59.Rf7+ Ke4]
58.Rf8+ Ke5 59.Re2+ Kd4 60.Rf4+ Kc5

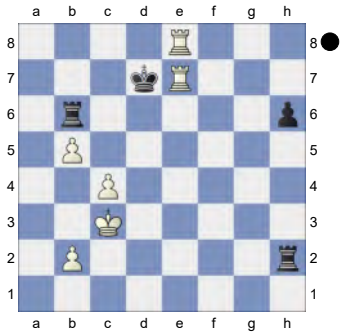
(Diagram)



61.Re5+ Kd6 62.Rfe4 Threatening mate with c5+. **62...Rh2+ 63.Kc3** Intending Re7 and mate. **63...Kc7 64.Re7+ Kd8 65.Re8+** 10.80/24
[⌓65.c5 #15/19 Rxb5 66.b4 Rb8 67.Re8+ Kd7 68.R4e7+ Kc6 69.Rxb8 Rh3+ 70.Kd4]
65...Kc7



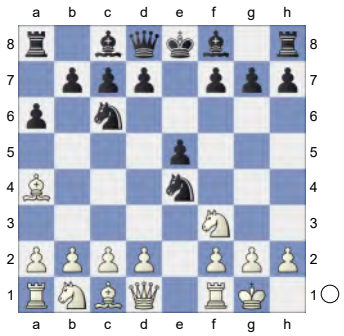
White is clearly winning. **66.R4e7+** 5.45/5
[⌓66.b3 11.20/23]
66...Kd6 67.Re6+ Kd7 68.R6e7+? 0.01/5
[68.Rxb6+- 9.77/22 Rh3+ 69.Kb4 Kxe8 70.Rd6]



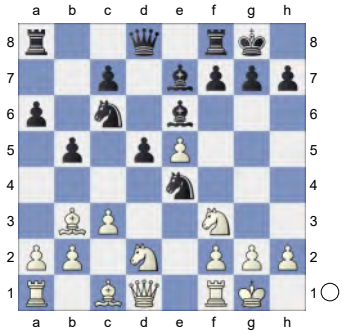
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.16 (very precise) . Loss on time!?
1-0

29 **C83**
□ **Patriciabot** **2852**
■ **Lynx** **2720**
Rapid 29.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

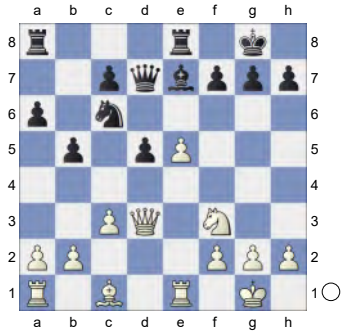
Blitz 5min+5sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
Chapter Petrosian,T: 'Inf 4/298' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**



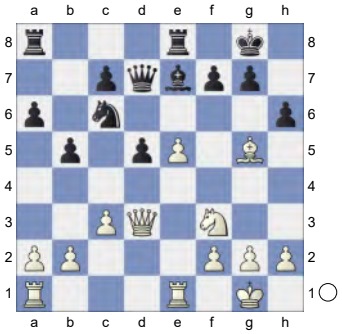
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.c3 0-0



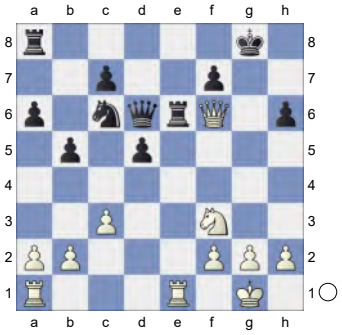
11.Bc2 Bf5
[11...f5 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Re1 Bg4 14.Nf1 Bc5 15.Bf4 Qd7 16.Ne3 Bxe3 17.Rxe3 Rae8 18.Rxe8 Nxe8 19.Bg3 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Nf6 21.Qd3 Re8 22.Kg2 Ne5 23.Qd4 Nc4 24.b3 Nd6 25.a4 Qc6 26.Bd3 Firouzja,A (2785)-Oparin,G (2667) chess.com INT 2023 1-0 (38)]
12.Nxe4N
[12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 f6 *(13...c5 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.d5 Re8 17.Re1 Qd7 18.d6 Bf8 19.Bf4 Qf5 20.Bg3 Rad8 21.Qc2 f6 22.Rad1 fxe5 23.Qxc5 Re6 24.h3 Rdxd6 25.Rxd6 Rxd6 26.Qxe5 Qxe5 27.Bxe5 Re6 28.Bd4* Geller,E-Kortschnoj,V Budva 1967 CI1-130 [Petrosian,Tigran V] ½-½ (46) *)*
14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qb3+ Kh8 17.Be3 c6 18.Qe6 Qe8 19.Rac1 f5 20.Rxc6 f4 21.Bd2 Rd8 22.d5 Bg5 23.Bb4 Rg8 24.Qxe8 Rgxe8 25.Bd6 h5 26.e6 a5 Ivanchuk,V (2695)-Kortschnoj,V (2615) New York 1994 [ChessCalisthenics] 1-0 (40)]
[12.a4 Bg6 13.axb5 axb5 14.Rxa8 Qxa8 15.Nb3 Rd8 16.Qe2 b4 17.c4 Qa6 18.Bd3 Nc5 19.Nxc5 Bxc5 20.e6 f6 21.Bxg6 hxg6 22.Qc2 Ne7 23.cxd5 Rxd5 24.Re1 g5 25.h3 Qd3 26.Qa4 Rd8 Lyutsinger,I (2127)-Strikovic,A (2401) New York 2025 1-0 (38)]
12...Bxe4 13.Re1 White has an edge.
13...Re8 14.Bd3 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Qd7



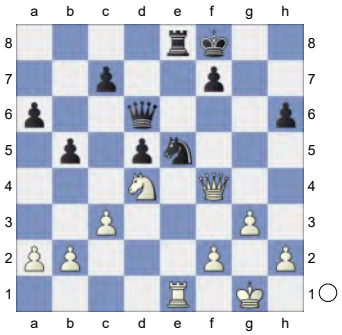
16.Bg5 h6 0.94/20
[16...Qe6± 0.56/17]



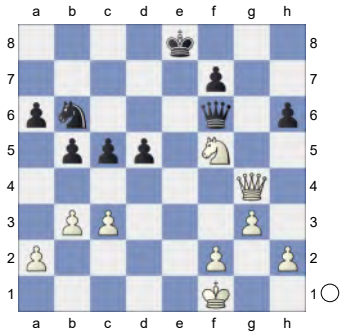
17.Bxh6!± gxh6 18.e6! Qd6 19.Qf5
[19.exf7+?! Kxf7 20.Qh7+ Kf8=]
19...Bf6 20.Qxf6
[Much weaker is 20.exf7+?! Kxf7 21.Nh4 *(21.Nd4? Nxd4 22.cxd4 Kg7-+)* 21...Kf8∓]
20...Rxe6



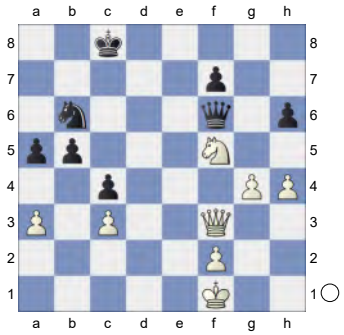
21.Rxe6 Qxe6 22.Qf4 Re8 23.g3 Hoping for Re1. **23...Ne5 24.Nd4! Qd6 25.Re1 Kf8** 1.24/22
[⌓25...c5 0.93/23 26.Kg2 cxd4 27.cxd4 Qb4 28.Rxe5 Rxe5 29.Qxe5 Qxb2]



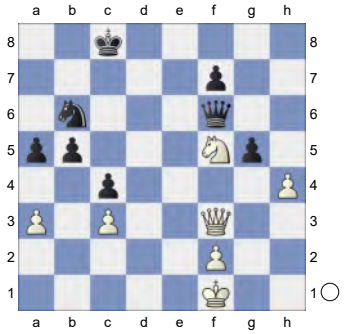
26.Kf1 0.88/23
[⌓26.Kg2 1.24/22]
26...Nc4 27.Rxe8+ Kxe8 28.Qg4 Qc8+ is the strong threat. **28...Nb6** Inhibits Qc8+. **29.b3 c5** 1.40/20
[⌓29...Qg6 0.93/18 30.Qf5 c5]
30.Nf5 Qf6



31.Qf3 &Bianco is more active. **31...Kd8 32.g4 c4 33.h4 a5 34.bxc4 dxc4 35.a3!** Inhibits b4.
[Much less strong is 35.Qb7?! b4±]
35...Kc8



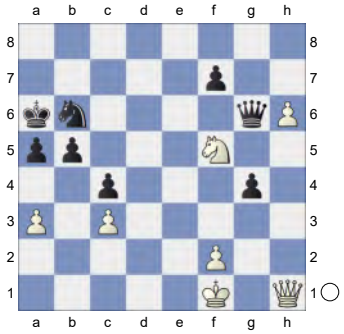
36.g5 hxg5



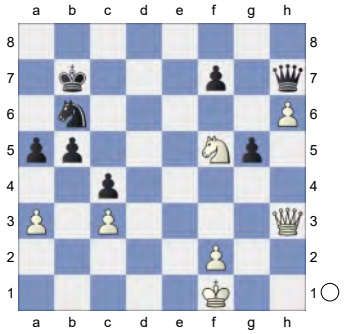
37.h5 aiming for h6.
[Not 37.hxg5 Qe6=]
37...Kc7 2.84/19
[37...g4? 38.Qxg4 b4 39.cxb4+-]
[37...b4± 1.44/19 38.axb4 axb4]

38.h6+- Qg6 39.Qg3+ Kb7 40.Qh3 Black must now prevent h7. **40...Qh7**

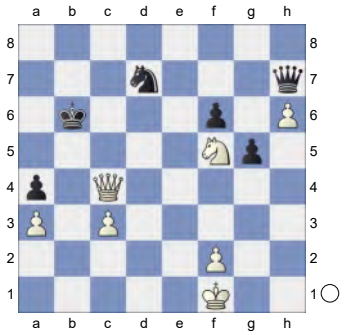
[40...g4? 41.Qh1+ Ka6



42.h7! Qxf5 43.h8Q]



41.Qf3+ Kc7 42.Qe4 Nd7 43.Qd5 f6 44.Qxb5 a4 45.Qxc4+ Kb6

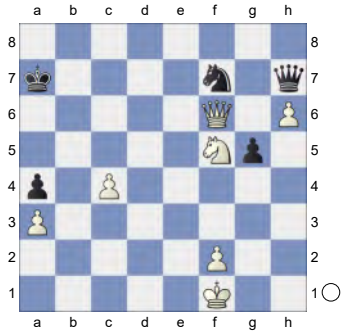


46.Qb4+ Kc7 47.Qd6+ Kb7 48.Qe6 Ka7 49.c4 Ne5 7.64/22

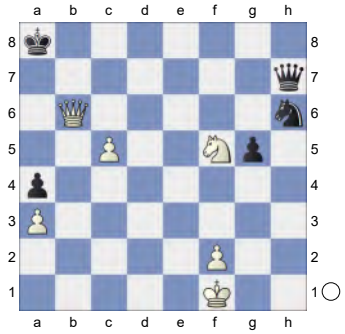
[⌓49...g4 4.84/19 50.Nd6 Kb8]

50.Qxf6 Nf7

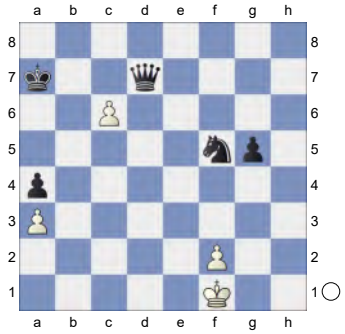
(Diagram)



51.c5 Nxh6 52.Qb6+ Ka8

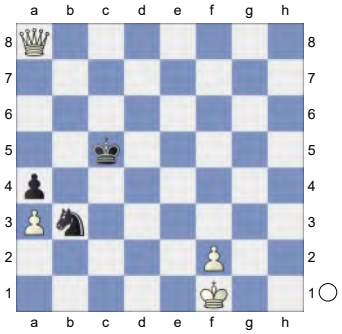


53.c6! Intending c7 and mate. **53...Nxf5 54.Qd8+ Ka7** Strongly threatening ... Qh1+. This costs Black the game. **55.Qd7+ Qxd7**

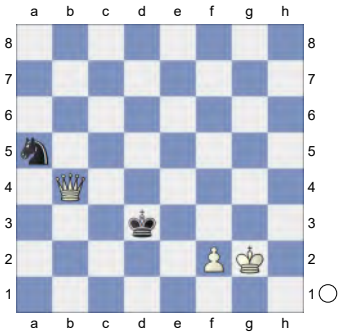


56.cxd7 Endgame KN-K3P **56...Nd4 57.d8Q Nb3 58.Qxg5 Kb6 59.Qd8+ Kc6 60.Qa8+** White mates. **60...Kc5**

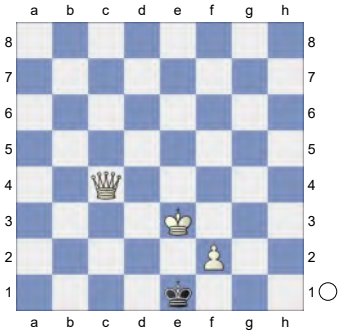
(Diagram)



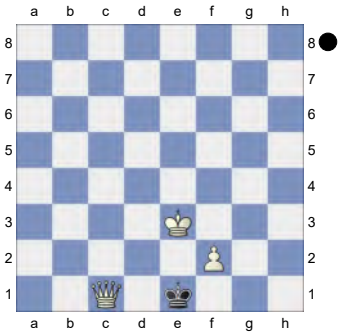
61.Qxa4 Nd2+ 62.Kg2 Nc4 63.Qb4+ Kd4 64.a4 Kd3 65.a5 Nxa5



66.Qxa5 Ke4 67.Qc5 Kd3 68.Kf3 Kd2 69.Qc4 Kd1 70.Ke3 Ke1



71.Qc1#

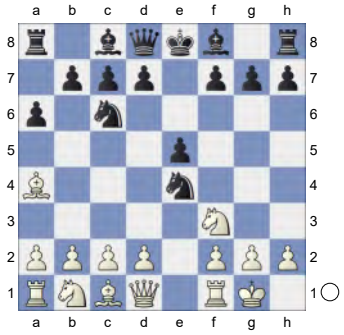


Weighted Error Value: White=0.05

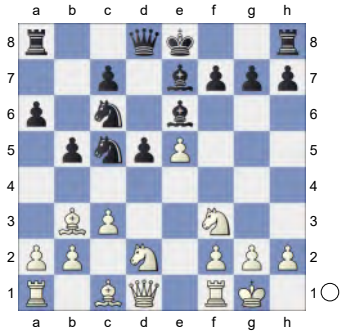
(flawless) /Black=0.36
1-0

30 **C83**
□ **Boller1910** **3030**
■ **Mateai** **3035**
Blitz 09.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min+1sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
Mikhalevski, V: 'As I promised last month I include the following game in the current update.' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

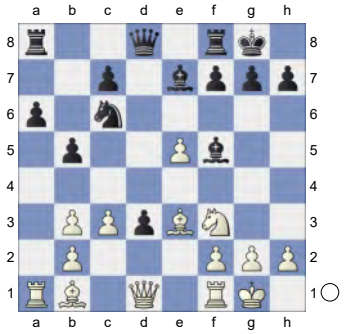


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

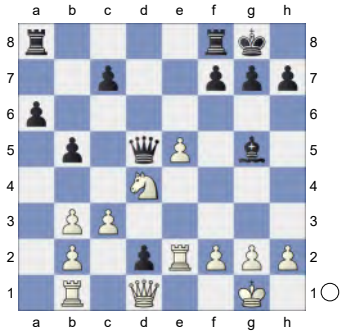


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.Be3 0-0**

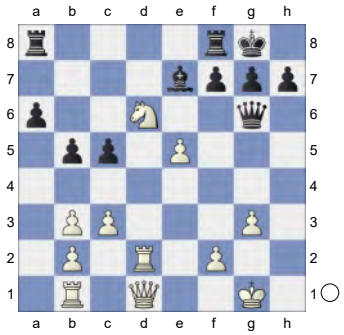
(Diagram)



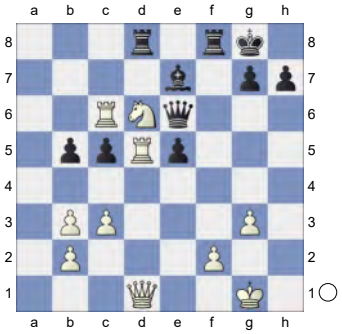
16.Bd4 Qd5
[16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 *(17.cxd4 c5=)* 17...Bg6 18.b4± *(18.Bxd3 Bxd3 19.Nc6 Qe8±)*]
17.Re1 d2 18.Re2 Bxb1 19.Rxb1 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bg5



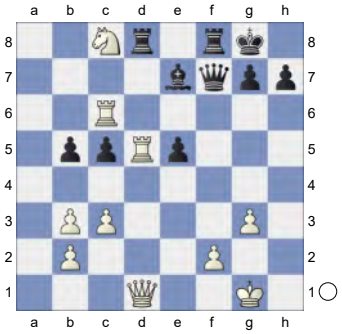
21.g3 c5 22.Nf5 Qd3 23.Nd6 Threatening f4. **23...Qg6! 24.h4 Bxh4** With the idea ...Bg5.
[24...Bf4 is interesting. 25.h5 Qe6 26.Ne4 Bxe5 27.Rxd2 Qf5]
25.Rxd2 Be7 0.67/19
[25...Rad8!= 0.26/21 might be stronger.]



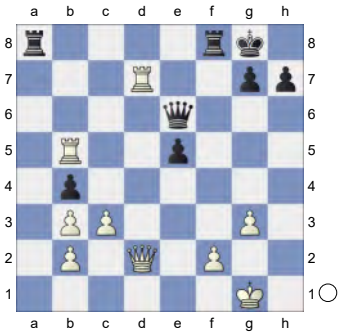
26.Rd5
[26.Qe1 Qe6 27.Qe3 Bxd6 28.Rxd6 Qxb3 29.Qxc5 Qc2 30.Ra1 Bjerre,J (2438)-Kushagra,M (2283) Porto Carras 2018 [Petronijevic, Zoran]]
26...Rad8N 1.21/21
[26...f6± 0.57/19 27.e6 f5 28.Qd3 Qxe6 29.Nxf5 Bf6 *(29...Rad8 30.Qe3 Qxe3 31.Nxe3 Rxd5 32.Nxd5 Bd8 33.f4 Kf7 34.Kg2 Re8 35.Kf3 Re6 36.g4 Rd6 37.Rd1 h6 38.f5 g6 39.fxg6+ Kg7 40.Ke4 Bg5 41.Ke5 Rc6 42.Rf1 Rxg6 43.Nc7 Be7 44.Ne6+* Caruana,F (2781)-Gelfand,B (2761) Zürich SUI 2014 [Smerdon, David] ½-½ (58) *Kg8 45.Rf4 h5 46.gxh5 Rg2 47.h6 Rxb2 48.Rg4+ Kh8 49.Nf4 Kh7 50.Rg7+ Kxh6 51.Rxe7 Rxb3 52.Nd5 Rb1 53.Kd6 c4 54.Ra7 Ra1 55.Kc5 Kg5 56.Kb6 Rd1 57.Nb4 Rc1 58.Na2* 1-0 (58) Caruana,F (2767)-L'Ami,E (2611) Reykjavik ISL 2012 [Mikhalevski, V]*)* 30.Rd1 Rad8 31.Ne3 *(31.Qe3 Qxe3 32.Nxe3 Rxd5 33.Nxd5 b4 34.Ra1 Rb8 35.cxb4 Bxb2 36.Ra2 Bd4 37.Rxa6 Kf7 38.bxc5 Rxb3 39.c6 Rxg3+ 40.Kf1 Rf3 41.Ra2 Ke6 42.Nc7+ Kf7 43.Nb5 Be5 44.c7 Bxc7 45.Nxc7 g5* Bruzon Batista,L (2689)-Mikhalevski,V (2552) Arlington 2013 CBM 183 [Marin,Mihail] 1-0 (60)*)* 31...Bg5 32.Rxd8 Rxd8 33.Nd5 Rf8 34.Nc7 Qxb3 35.Qe2 Qf7 36.Nxa6 c4 37.Nc5 Re8 38.Ne4 Chapter-Game Game 3 (38)]
27.Ra1± Qe6 28.Rxa6 f6 29.Rc6! &Bianco is much more active.
[29.Rxc5 fxe5 30.Rxb5 *(30.Qd5 Qxd5 31.Rxd5 Rf6∓)* 30...Rxd6 31.Rxd6 Bxd6∓]
29...fxe5



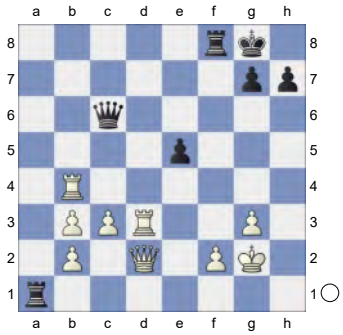
30.Nc8! Qf7



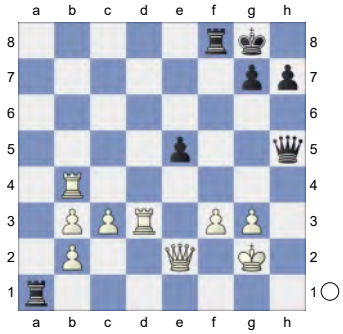
31.Nxe7+ Qxe7 32.Qd2 b4 1.74/23
[32...h5± 0.87/20 keeps fighting.]
33.Rcxc5+- Rde8 2.29/22
[⌓33...e4 1.67/20 34.cxb4 h6]
34.Rb5 1.21/21
[34.cxb4?! e4±]
[34.Rxe5+- 2.29/22 Qxe5 35.Rxe5 Rxe5 36.c4 *(36.cxb4 Rb5=)*]
34...Qe6 2.15/20
[34...e4± 1.21/21]
35.Rd7 Threatens to win with Rbb7.
[35.cxb4?! e4±]
35...Ra8



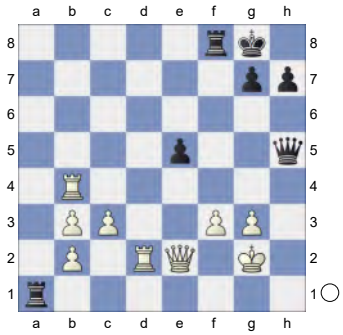
36.Rxb4 Strongly threatening Ra4.
36...Ra1+ 37.Kg2! Black must now prevent Rbb7.
[37.Kh2 Rf1 38.f3 R1xf3=]
37...Qf6
[37...Kh8? 38.Rd8 Ra8 39.Qd6! Qxd6 40.Rxd6+-]
38.Rd3 Against Qf3+ **38...Qc6+**



39.f3! Qg6 40.Qe2
[Stronger than 40.Rd8 Rg1+ 41.Kxg1 Qxg3+ 42.Kf1 Qxf3+ 43.Kg1 Qg3+ 44.Kh1 Qh3+ 45.Kg1 Qg3+ 46.Kh1 Qh3+ 47.Kg1 Qg3+=]
40...Qh5 3.25/21
[⌓40...Re1 2.11/20 41.Qxe1 Qxd3]

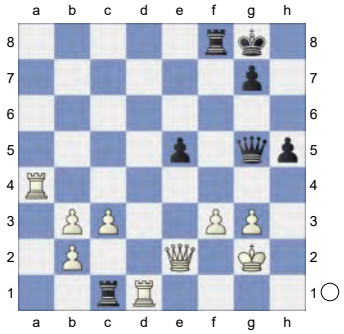


41.Rd1 Ra2 42.Rd2 Ra1

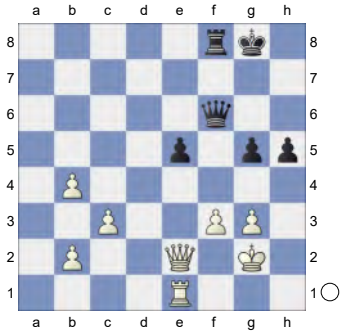


(-> ...Qh1+) **43.Rh4** Inhibits Qh1+.

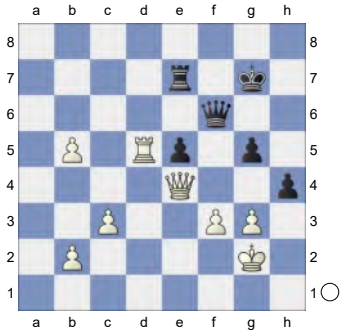
43...Qg5 44.Ra4
[Weaker is 44.Qd3 Rg1+ 45.Kxg1 Qxg3+ 46.Rg2 Qe1+ 47.Qf1 Qxh4±]
44...Rc1 45.Rd1 h5



46.Rxc1 Qxc1 Endgame KQR-KQR **47.Rh4 g6 48.Rh1 Qg5 49.Re1 Qf6 50.b4 g5**

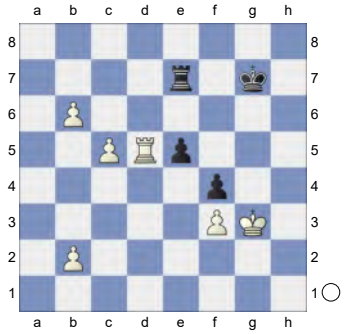


51.Qe4 Rd8 52.Re2 Inhibits Rd2. **52...Re8 53.b5 Re7 54.Rd2 Kg7 55.Rd5 h4**

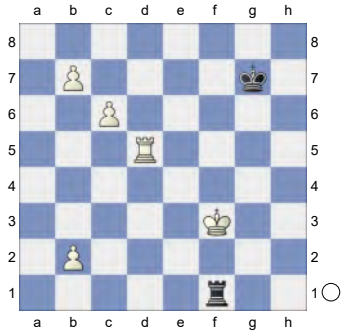


56.c4 hxg3 57.Kxg3 Qb6 58.c5 Qf6 59.b6 Qf4+ 60.Qxf4 gxf4+

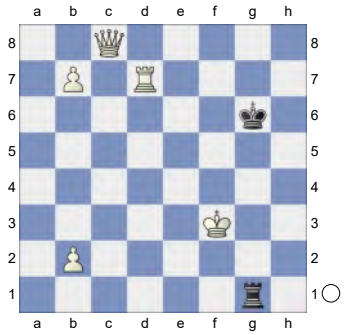
(Diagram)



KR-KR **61.Kg4 e4 62.fxe4** White threatens c6 and mate. **62...Rxe4 63.c6** White wants to mate with b7. **63...f3+ 64.Kxf3 Re1 65.b7** White mates. **65...Rf1+**

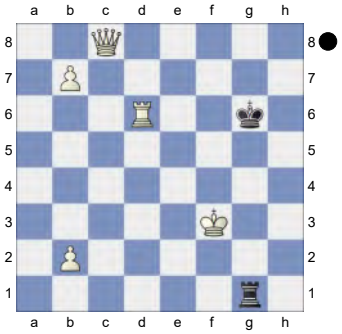


66.Kg2 Rf8 67.c7 Rf6 68.c8Q Rg6+ 69.Kf3 Rg1 70.Rd7+ Kg6



71.Rd6+

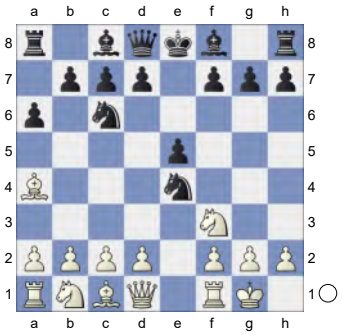
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.26 (precise)
1-0

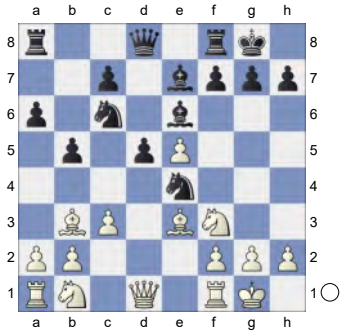
31 **C83**
☐ **Mithril Sf** **3045**
■ **Mateai** **3033**
Blitz 08.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min+1sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
C83: Partie espagnole (défense ouverte, variante principale)
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

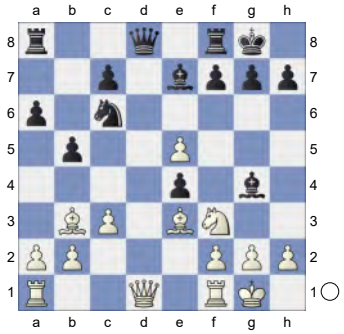


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Be3 0-0

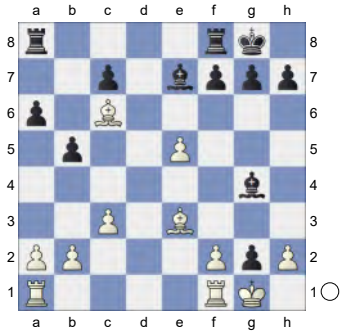
(Diagram)



11.Nbd2 Bg4 12.Nxe4 dxe4



13.Qd5 Qxd5
[13...exf3 14.Qxc6]
14.Bxd5 exf3 15.Bxc6 fxg2

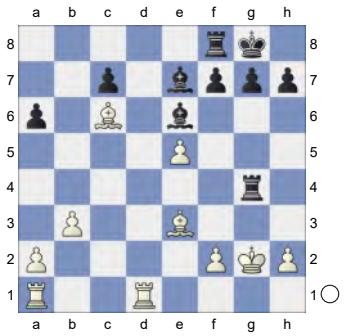


16.Kxg2
[16.Rfc1 is interesting. Rab8 17.a4 b4 18.cxb4 Rxb4 19.Bxg2 c5 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 Rxb2 22.h3]
16...Rab8 17.Rfe1N
[17.h3 Be2 18.Rfe1 Bc4 19.b3 Be6 20.b4 Rbd8 21.a4 Bd5+ 22.Bxd5 Rxd5 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra7 Rc8 25.Rea1 f5 26.e6 Bf6 27.R1a6 c6 28.Bc5 Rdd8 29.Be7 Re8 30.Bxf6 gxf6 31.Rb7 Rxe6 Adams,M (2718)-Fressinet,L (2624) Corte 2005

LesEchecs.com [LesEchecs.com] 1-0 (79)]
[17.b4 f6 18.Bd5+ Kh8 19.e6 *(19.f3 Bf5 20.e6 Rbd8 21.Rad1 Bd6 22.Bc5 Rfe8 23.Rfe1 Bxc5 24.bxc5 g5 25.Kf2 Re7 26.Rd4 Kg7 27.Bb7 Rxd4 28.cxd4 Rxe6 29.Rxe6 Bxe6 30.d5 Bf7 31.Ke3 Kf8 32.Kd4 Ke7 33.Bxa6 b4* Priasmoro,N (2504)-Tarigan,G (2384) Jakarta 2023 1-0 (56) *34.Bc4 Bh5 35.Be2 Bf7 36.Bd1 h6 37.Bb3 Bh5 38.Kc4 Bxf3 39.Kxb4 h5 40.a4 h4 41.a5 Be2 42.Bd1 Bf1 43.Bg4 Kd8 44.Kc3 Ba6 45.Kd4 Bf1 46.Bf5 Be2 47.Bd3 Bg4 48.a6 Kc8* Bxc6 Bxc6 (2504)-Tapia,M (2384) Linz 2023 CHECK99 [John Watson] 1-0 (56)*)* 19...Rbd8 20.Bb3 Rfe8 21.Rfe1 Bd6 22.Bd4 Re7 23.a4 h6 24.axb5 axb5 25.Ra5 Bxb4 26.Rxb5 Rxd4 27.Rxb4 Rxb4 28.cxb4 g5 29.Kg3 Bf5 30.f4 Kg7 31.h4 Kg6 Roehrich,S (2729)-13.f4 ♗g7 14.0-0 e6_19421 (2644) cor 2023 Chess Today CT-827 [John Watson] ½-½ (44)]

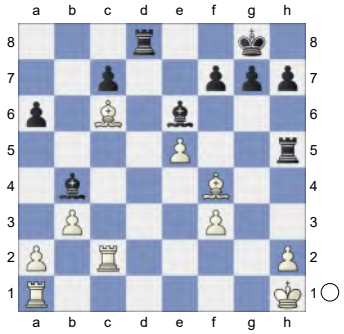
17...Be6 18.Red1 0.01/18
[18.b4!± 0.38/20]

18...b4= 19.cxb4 Rxb4 20.b3 Rg4+

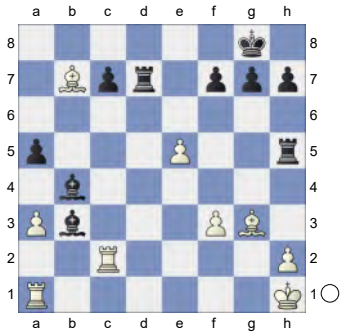


21.Kh1 Ba3 22.f3 Rh4 23.Rd2 Against Bb2 **23...Bb4 24.Rc2 Rh5 25.Bf4 Rd8**

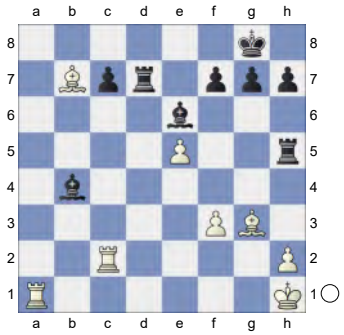
(Diagram)



Prevents Rd1. **26.Bb7 Rd7 27.Bg3 a5 28.a3 Bf8**
[28...Bxb3?

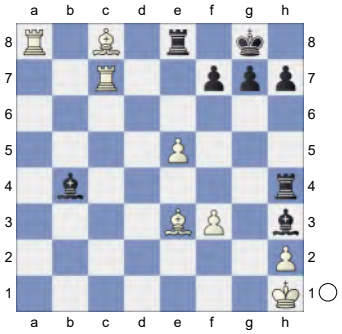


29.axb4! Bxc2 30.bxa5+-]
29.b4 Prevents c5. **29...axb4 30.axb4 Bxb4**

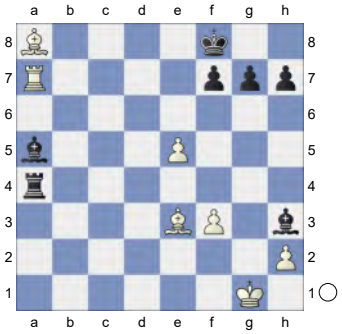


31.Bc8 Re7 32.Ra8 Threatens to win with Bxe6+. **32...Re8 33.Rxc7** And now Bxe6 would win. **33...Rh6 34.Bf4 Rh4 35.Be3** -0.17/23
[35.Bxe6 0.28/21 was preferrable. Rxa8 36.Bxf7+ Kf8 37.Be3]
35...Bh3

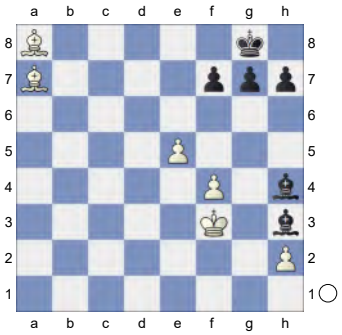
(Diagram)



The position is equal. **36.Kg1 Rf8 37.Bb7 Rxa8 38.Bxa8 Ba5 39.Re7 Kf8** Against Re8+. Strongly threatening ...Bb6. **40.Ra7 Ra4**

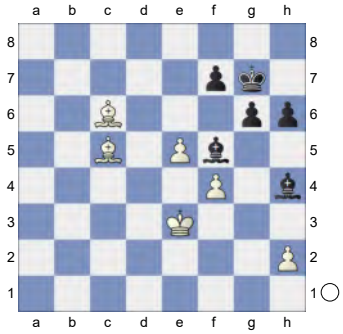


41.Bc5+ Kg8 42.f4 Ra1+
[42...Rxf4? 43.Bg2 Bxg2 44.Kxg2+-]
43.Kf2 Be1+ 44.Kf3 Rxa7 45.Bxa7 Endgame KBB-KBB **45...Bh4**

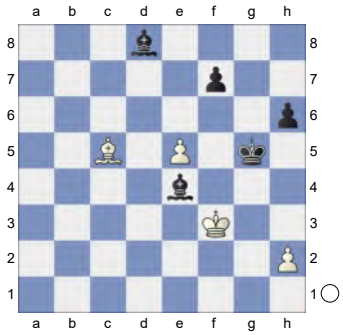


46.Bc5 g6 47.Bd5 Be6 48.Be4 Kg7 49.Bc6 h6 50.Ke3 Bf5

(Diagram)



51.Kf3 Bd8 52.Ke3 g5 53.Be4 Kg6 54.fxg5 Kxg5 55.Kf3 Hoping for h4+! **55...Bxe4+**

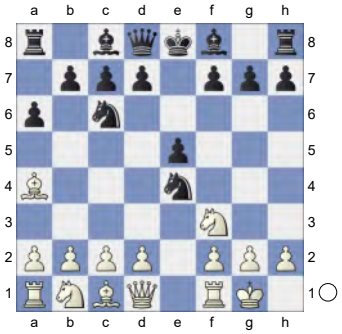


Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

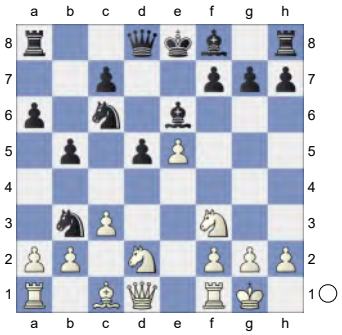
32 **C80**
□ **Arasanx** **3045**
■ **Lynx** **2629**
Rapid 21.08.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Rapid 15min+3sec
C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Nxb3



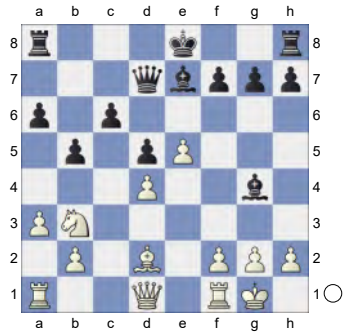
11.Nxb3 Be7 12.Nfd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 c6N 0.51/18

[13...a5!= 0.08/20 is superior. 14.Qc2 *(14.Be3 a4 15.Nc1 0-0 16.Nd3 Bf5 17.Rc1 Ra6 18.Qd2 Qd7 19.f3 h6 20.Nc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 Rg6 22.Rf2 c6 23.Qb4 f6 24.Bf4 fxe5 25.Bxe5 Re8 26.Rc1 Qf7 27.Qd2 h5 28.Qf4 Bd3* Mekhitarian,K (2559)-Milos,G (2589) Caxias do Sul 2016 EXT 2018 [ChessBase II] ½-½ (83) *)* 14...Qd7 15.Be3 Bf5 16.Qc1 h6 17.Nc5 Qc6 18.Qd1 Qg6 19.Rc1 0-0 20.Bf4 h5 21.f3 a4 22.Kh1 Rfe8 23.Qd2 c6 24.Nb7 Bd7 25.Rfe1 Bf8 26.Nd6 Re6 27.h3 Bxd6 28.exd6 Rae8 Weis,D (2654)-Pink,J (2706) USSR 29/395 2009 CBM 150 [Anilkumar] ½-½ (49)]

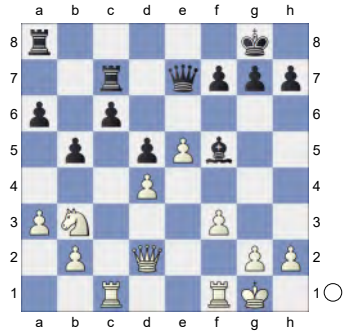
[13...0-0 14.Bd2 f6 15.Re1 fxe5 16.Rxe5 Bd6 17.Bg5 Qe8 18.Re3 Qg6 19.Qe2 Qxg5 20.Rxe6 Qh4 21.g3 Qh3 22.Re1 h5 Chess Informant Eco-N,N Survey 2006]

[13...Qc8 14.Bd2 0-0 15.Rc1 b4 16.Qc2 Ra7 17.Na5 Bd7 18.Qb3 Qa8 19.Bxb4 Rb8 20.a3 Rb5 21.Rc3 Qb8 22.Rfc1 h6 23.Qa2 Bxb4 24.axb4 Rxb4 25.Qxd5 Be6 26.Qe4 Ra4 27.Nc6 Qxb2 28.Qe1 Armstrong,J-Thorsteinsson,E corr 1990 Corr Nr. 1 [ChessBase II] ½-½ (43)]

14.Bd2± Qd7 15.a3 Bg4



White is better. **16.f3 Bf5 17.Bb4 0-0 18.Qd2 Rfc8 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Rac1 Rc7**



21.Nc5 a5 1.24/19

[⌓21...Qh4 0.93/17]

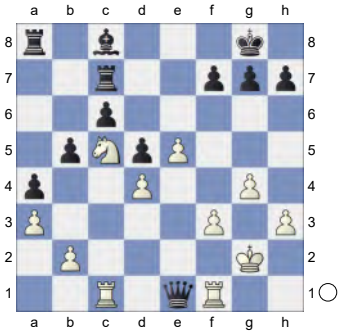
22.g4± Bc8 23.Kg2 0x0.0020b5901e50dp-1022s more active pieces. The black rooks are badly placed. **23...a4** 1.57/20

[⌓23...b4 1.10/17]

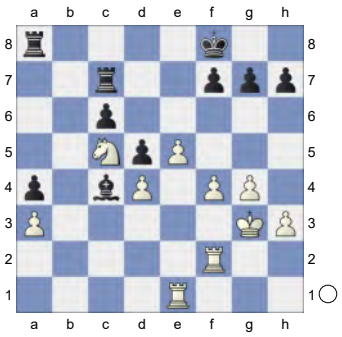
24.h3 Qh4 1.64/19

[24...f5± 1.29/18 25.e6 Qf6]

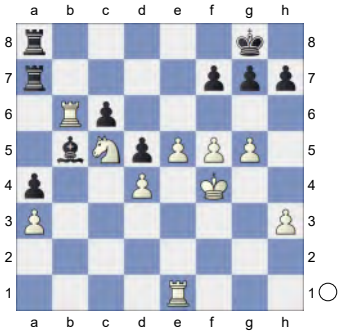
25.Qe1+- Qxe1



26.Rcxe1
[26.Rfxe1 b4 27.axb4 Rb8±]
26...Kf8 27.f4 b4 28.Kg3
[Resist 28.axb4 h5±]
28...bxa3 2.00/20
[⌓28...Rb8 1.66/17 29.Rf2 *(29.Nxa4 bxa3 30.bxa3 Ra7±)* 29...Re7]
29.bxa3 Ba6 30.Rf2 Bc4

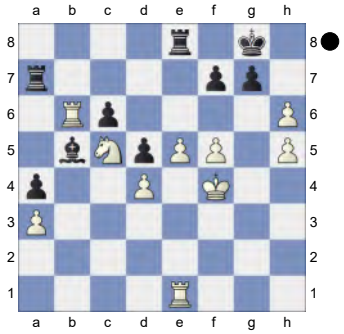


31.Rb2 Inhibits Rb8. **31...Re8 32.f5 Ra7 33.Rb6 Bb5 34.g5 Rea8 35.Kf4 Kg8**

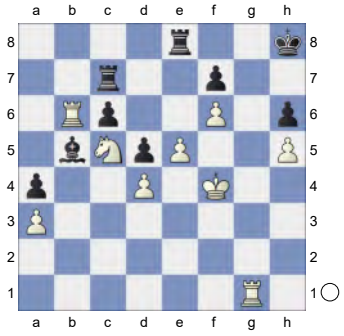


36.h4 Re8 37.h5 h6 38.gxh6

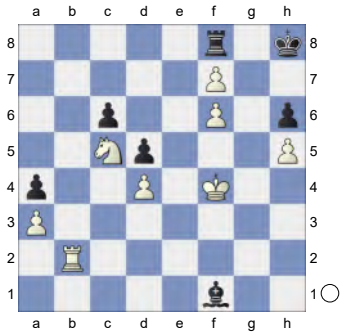
(Diagram)



And now Rg1 would win. **38...gxh6** 9.19/26
[⌓38...Kh7 4.70/18 39.hxg7 Kxg7 40.Rg1+ Kh6]
39.Rg1+ Kh8 40.f6 Rc7

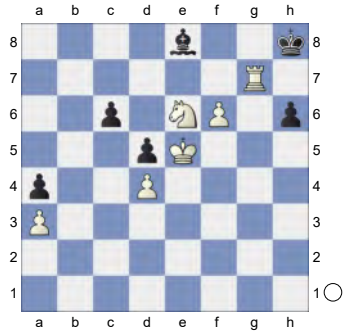


41.Rg7 Be2 42.Rb2 Bf1 43.e6 Ra8 44.Rxf7 Rxf7 45.exf7 KRB-KRN **45...Rf8**

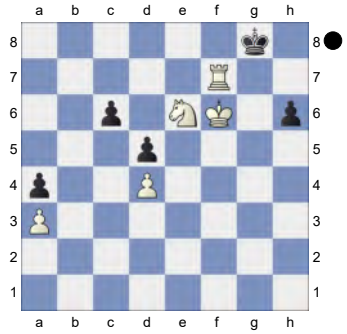


46.Rb7 Bh3 47.Ke5 Bg4 48.Ne6 Rxf7 49.Rxf7 Bxh5 50.Rg7 Be8

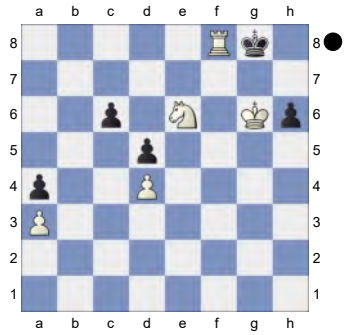
(Diagram)



51.f7 Bxf7 52.Rxf7 Kg8 53.Kf6



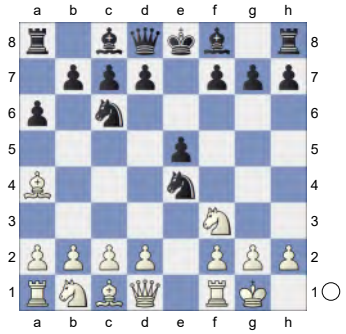
Kg6 would kill now. **53...Kh8 54.Kg6 Kg8 55.Rf8#**



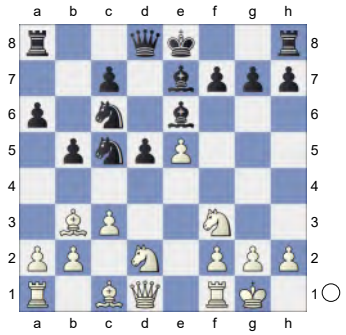
Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.51
1-0

33 **C83**
□ **Raspfish** **2960**
■ **Thefreshman1902** **2984**
Blitz 27.04.2024
[Kitty Kat]

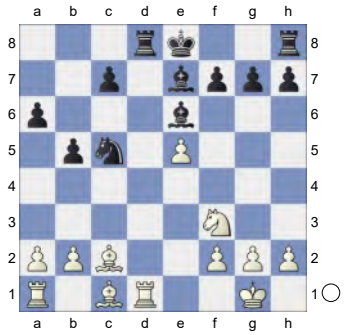
Blitz 3min
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 Nc5

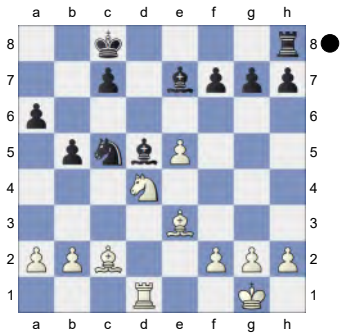


11.Bc2 d4 12.cxd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Nf3 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 Rd8

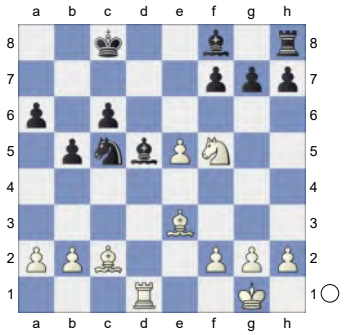


16.Rxd8+ White is slightly better.
16...Kxd8 17.Be3 Kc8 18.Nd4 Bd5

Inhibits Nc6. **19.Rd1**

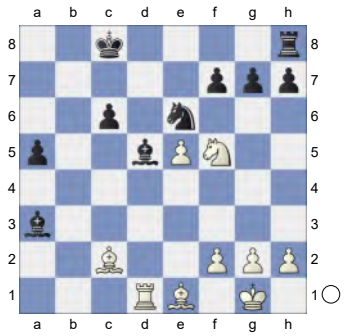


Black must now prevent Nf5. **19...c6!**
20.Nf5 Bf8

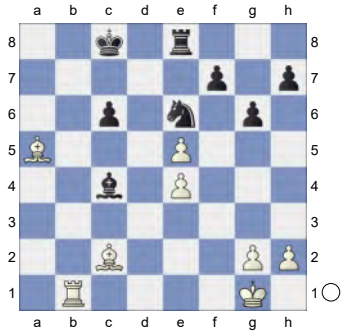


21.Bd4N -0.01/20
[21.Bg5± 0.35/18]
[21.a3 g6 22.Bxc5 Bxc5 23.b4 Bxb4 24.axb4 gxf5 25.Bxf5+ Kc7 26.Ra1 Ra8 27.Bxh7 c5 28.Rc1 Bc4 29.bxc5 Bd5 30.f3 b4 31.Rd1 Kc6 32.Rxd5 Kxd5 33.Be4+ Kxc5 34.Bxa8 a5 0-1 (34) Mai,W (1899)-Gray,G (2303) ICCF 2018]
21...Ne6= With the idea ...g6. **22.Bc3 b4** Prevents a3. **23.Be1 a5** 0.33/20
[23...g6= 0.01/21 24.Ne3 Bxa2]
24.a3↑ White is pushing. **24...bxa3 25.bxa3 Bxa3**

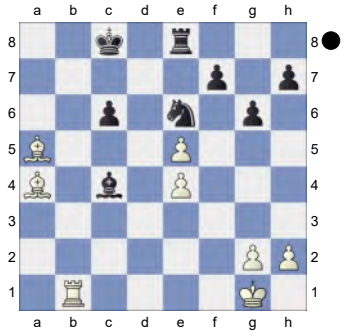
(Diagram)



26.Bxa5 Ne3 is the strong threat.
26...Bc5 27.Rb1 g6
[27...Nd4!? 28.Bd3 Nb3=]
28.Ne3 Bxe3 29.fxe3 Re8 30.e4! Bc4

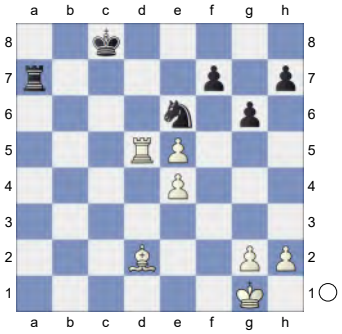


31.Ba4!

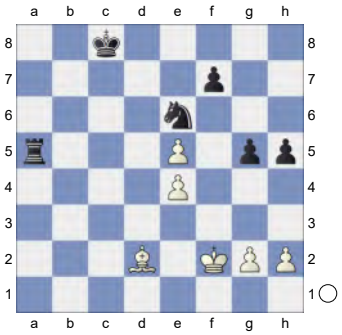


Hoping for Rc1. A strong pair of Bishops.
31...Bb5 32.Bxb5 cxb5 33.Rxb5 Endgame KRB-KRN **33...Re7 34.Rd5 Rd7 35.Bd2** 0.14/21
[35.h3± 0.45/20 is more appropriate.]
35...Ra7 0.49/21
[35...Nc7!= 0.14/21 deserves consideration. 36.Rxd7 Kxd7]

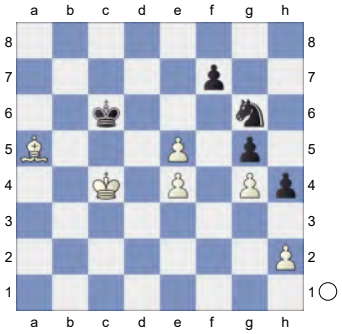
(Diagram)



36.Kf2! Ra4 37.Kf3 Ra3+ 38.Ke2 h5 39.Kf2 g5 40.Ra5 Rxa5

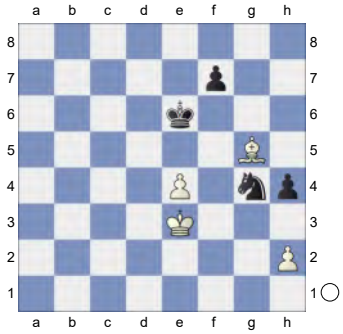


The position is equal. **41.Bxa5=** KB-KN **41...Kb7** Against Bb6 **42.g4 h4 43.Ke3 Kc6 44.Kd3 Nf4+ 45.Kc4 Ng6**



46.Kd4 Strongly threatening Bd2. **46...Kd7! 47.Bd2 Ke6 48.Bxg5** Threatens to win with Bf6. **48...Nxe5** aiming for ...Nf3+. **49.Ke3** Prevents Nf3. **49...Nxg4+**

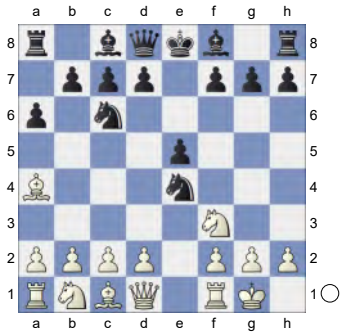
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

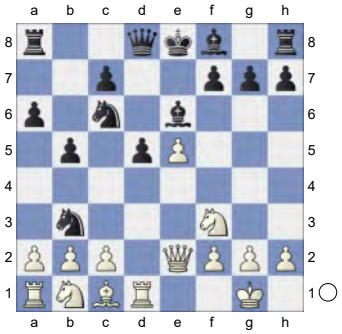
34 **C81**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2827**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2687**
FIDE World RapidandBlitz Team Champi..
[Kitty Kat]

C81: Open Ruy Lopez: Keres Variation (9 Qe2)
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Qe2 Nc5 10.Rd1 Nxb3

(Diagram)

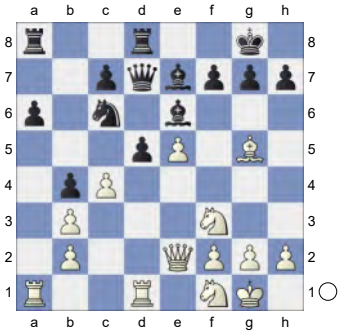


11.axb3 Be7 12.c4 cxd5 is the strong threat. **12...b4 13.Nbd2 0-0**

[13...Qc8 14.Nf1 dxc4 15.Qe4 Qb7 16.Bg5 Na5 17.Qh4 Bxg5 18.Qxg5 Nxb3 19.Qxg7 Rf8 20.Ng5 Bd5 21.Nxh7 0-0-0 22.Nxf8 Nxa1 23.Rxa1 Kb8 24.Ne3 c3 25.e6 fxe6 26.bxc3 b3 27.Rb1 a5 28.Nd7+ Volokitin,A (2687)-Huschenbeth,N (2611) Deutschland 152/129 2022 [Perunovic,Milos] 1-0 (37)]

14.Nf1! Qd7! White is slightly better.

15.Bg5 Rfd8



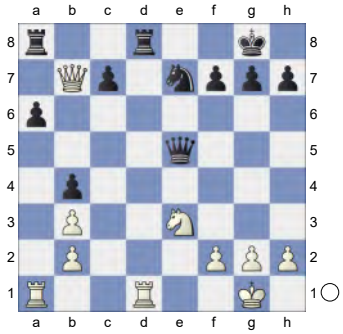
16.cxd5N 0.01/23

[16.h3± 0.37/21]

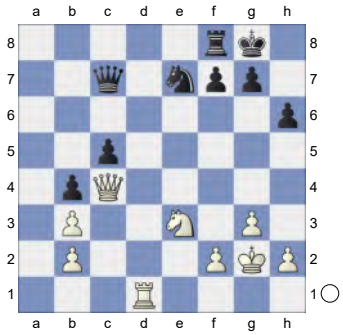
[16.Ne3 d4 17.Nd5 Bxg5 18.Nxg5 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Qf5 20.dxc6 Qxg5 21.Qe4 d3 22.f4 Qg6 23.Qxg6 hxg6 24.Kf2 g5 25.g3 gxf4 26.gxf4 f6 27.Ke3 fxe5 28.fxe5 Rd5 29.Ke4 Rad8 Chapter-9.Qe2 Nc5 - Part 2 [GM Michael Roiz]]

16...Bxd5= 17.Ne3 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Qe6 19.Bxe7 Nxe7 20.Qb7 Qxe5

(Diagram)

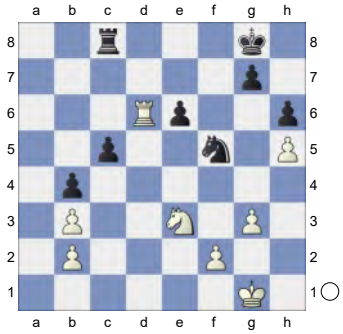


21.Qxa6 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Rf8 23.Qc4 c5 24.g3 h6 25.Kg2 Qc7



26.h4 Rc8 27.h5 Qc6+ 28.Kg1 Qe6 29.Qxe6 fxe6± Endgame KRN-KRN

30.Rd6 Nf5

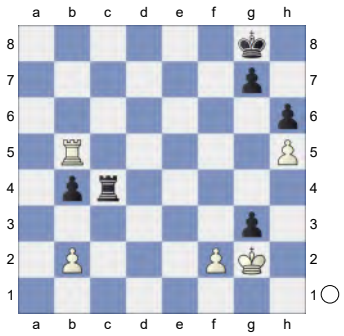


31.Nxf5 exf5= KR-KR **32.Rd5 c4 33.bxc4**

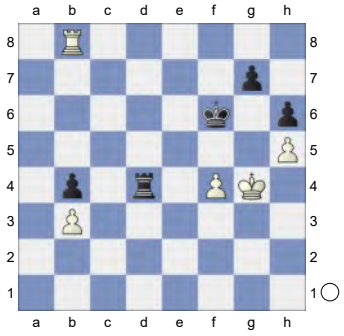
[Avoid the trap 33.Rxf5? c3 34.bxc3 bxc3-+]

33...Rxc4 34.Rb5 f4! 35.Kg2 fxg3

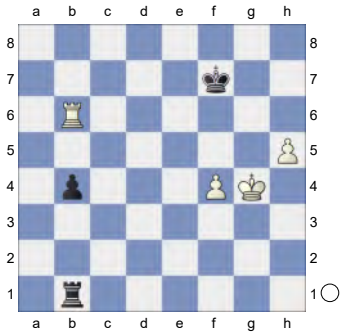
(Diagram)



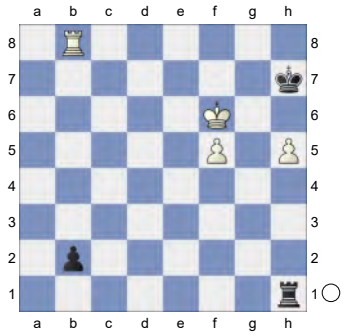
36.Kxg3 Kf7 0.33/27
[36...Rd4= 0.01/26]
37.f4!± Kf6 38.Kg4! Rd4 39.b3 0.20/27
[39.Rb6+± 0.54/27 Ke7 40.Kf5]
39...Ke6 40.Rb8 Kf6



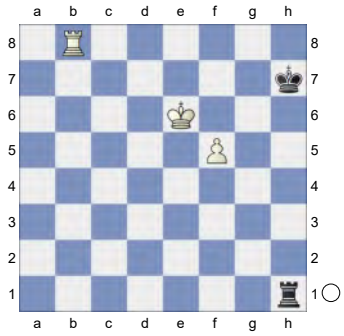
41.Rb7 Ke6 42.Rxg7 Rd3 43.Rg6+ Kf7 0.75/23
[43...Ke7± 0.38/26 deserves consideration.]
44.Rxh6 0.13/26
[44.Kf5± 0.75/23]
44...Rxb3= 45.Rb6 Rb1



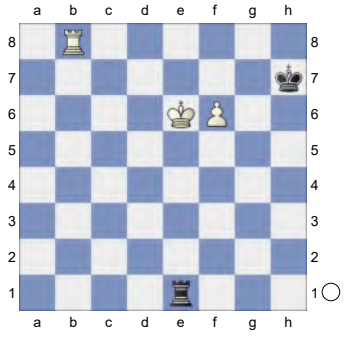
46.Kf5 b3 47.Rb7+ Kg8 48.Kf6 b2 1.34/29
[48...Rb2± 0.47/23]
49.Rb8+ Kh7 50.f5 0.01/29
[50.Kf5!± 0.53/31]
50...Rh1? 5.57/27
[50...Ra1= 0.01/29 and Black has nothing to worry. 51.Rxb2 Kh6]



Loses the game. **51.Rxb2+- Rxh5 52.Rb7+ Kh6 53.Rb8 Kh7** Against Rh8+ **54.Ke6** Strongly threatening f6. **54...Rh1**

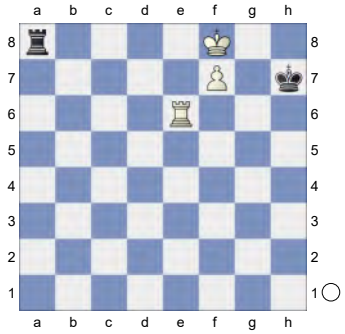


55.f6! f7 would kill now. **55...Re1+**

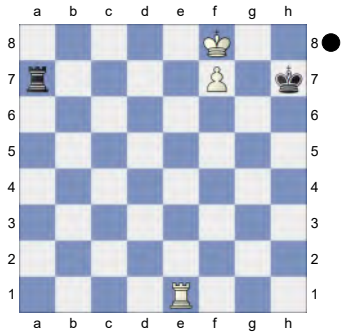


56.Kf7 Ra1 57.Kf8 Ra7 58.f7 Kg6 59.Rb6+ Kh7 60.Re6 5.77/24
[⌓60.Rf6 #21/28 Ra8+ 61.Ke7 Ra7+ 62.Ke6 Ra6+ 63.Ke5 Ra5+ 64.Kd4 Ra4+ 65.Kc3]

60...Ra8+

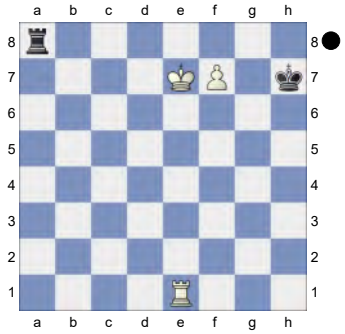


61.Re8 Ra7 62.Re1



White threatens Rf1 and mate.

62...Ra8+ 63.Ke7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.27 (precise)

1-0

35 **C83**

Vachier Lagrave,Maxime **2735**

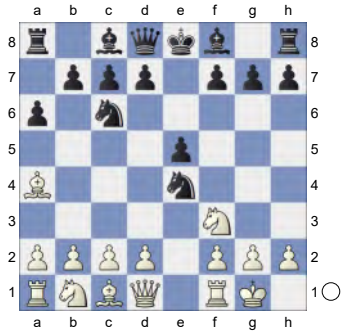
Sindarov,Javokhir **2668**

WR Chess Masters 2024 (1.1) 14.10.24

[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7

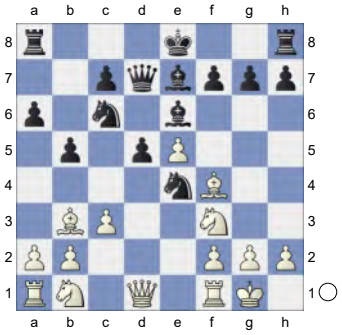
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



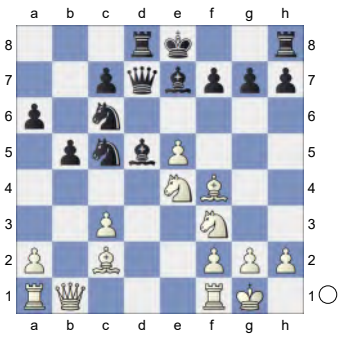
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 now supersedes 9...Bc5. löst 9...Lc5 inzwischen ab. **10.Bf4 Qd7N**

[10...0-0 11.Nd4 Nxd4 *(11...Na5 12.f3 Nxb3 13.axb3 Nc5 14.b4 Nd7 15.Nc6 Qe8 16.Nd2 Bh4 17.Bg3 Bxg3 18.hxg3 f6 19.Re1 fxe5 20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.Rxe5 Qg6 22.Nb3 Bf7 23.g4 Rfe8 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Qd2 Re5 26.Nd4* Grischuk,A (2761)-Mamedyarov,S (2800) Paris 2017 CBM 179 [Yermolinsky,Alex] 1-0 (44) *)* 12.cxd4 f6 13.Nc3 fxe5 14.Bxe5 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Qd7 16.Qe2 Rae8 17.a4 c5 18.axb5 axb5 19.Ra6 c4 20.Bc2 Bf5 21.Rfa1 Bf6 22.f4 Bxe5 23.fxe5 Bxc2 24.Qxc2 Qg4 25.Qd2 6.0-0 a5 7.Re1 0-0 8. Nbd2 - P-Noteboom 6.e3 b5 7.Nd2 #1 | I 6.♔f1 ♘c6 1887 Mega2023 Update 22 [Glatman] 1-0 (35) h5 26.Qe3 Rf4 27.Ra8 Rxa8 28.Rxa8+ Kh7 29.Ra1 b4 30.h3 Qg5 31.Re1 bxc3 32.e6 c2 33.e7 Re4 34.Qxg5 Rxe1+

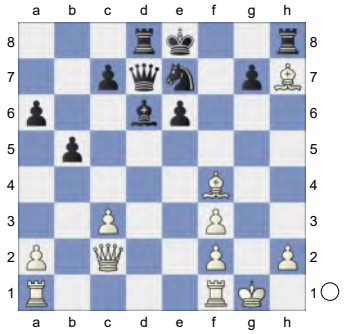
35.Kf2 1-0 (35) Duz Hotimirsky,F-Euwe,M London 1887 [01: Active Bishop]]



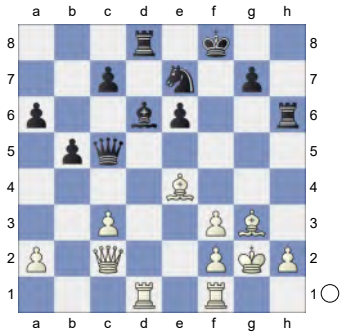
11.Nbd2 Nc5 12.Bc2 Prevents Nd3. Inhibits Nd3. **12...d4N**
[12...Bg4 13.h3 Bh5 14.Re1 Rd8 15.g4 And now Bf5 would win. Threatens to win with Bf5. Bg6 Prevents Bf5. Inhibits Bf5. 16.Nd4 -0.64/23 *(White should try 16.Nb3=* -0.05/19 *)* 16...Nxd4∓ 17.cxd4 Ne6 18.Be3 c5 ½-½ Zidarov,S-Tonkov,B (2340) BUL-chT Varna 1995 (3)]
13.Ne4 dxc3
[Don't take Don't do 13...d3 14.Nxc5 dxc2 15.Qxd7+ Bxd7 16.Nxd7 Kxd7 17.Rac1±]
14.bxc3 Rd8 0.56/21
[14...Qxd1= 0.23/20 15.Rfxd1 Na4]
15.Qb1 Bd5 0.74/19
[15...h6± 0.42/20]
[15...Nxe4± 0.41/18 is superior. 16.Bxe4 Bd5]



16.Nxc5!±
[16.Re1 feels hotter. Bxe4 17.Bxe4 Nxe4 18.Qxe4 Qd5 19.a4]
16...Bxc5 17.e6 0.36/20
[17.Bf5± 0.82/19 Be6 18.Bxh7]
17...fxe6±
[17...Qxe6? 18.Re1+-]
18.Bxh7 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Ne7 20.Qc2 Bd6

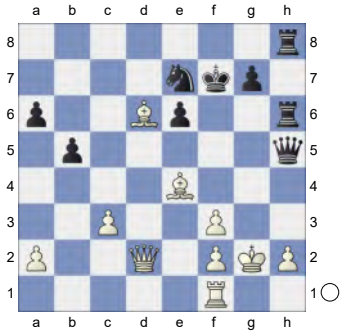


21.Rad1 0.06/19
[21.Rfd1± 0.38/19 is more appropriate.]
21...Qc6= 22.Bg6+ Kf8 23.Kg2 Rh4 24.Be4 Qc5 25.Bg3 This bishop pair is nice. A strong pair of Bishops. **25...Rh6**

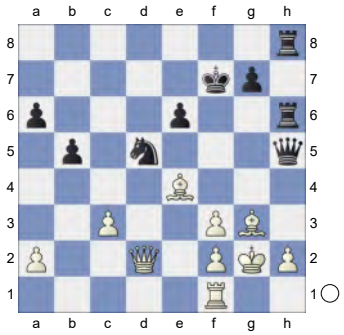


26.Rd3 -0.16/17
[⌓26.a4 0.20/18]
26...Kf7 27.Qd2 Rdh8 28.Rxd6 -0.48/21
[28.Rh1= -0.10/19]
[28.Rg1= -0.05/17]
28...cxd6∓ 29.Bxd6 Qh5

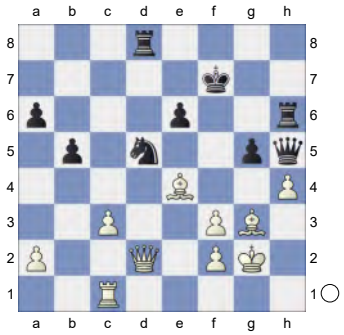
(Diagram)



aiming for ...Rd8. **30.Bg3 Nd5** -0.01/18
[30...Nf5∓ -0.52/21 31.Qf4 Rf8]



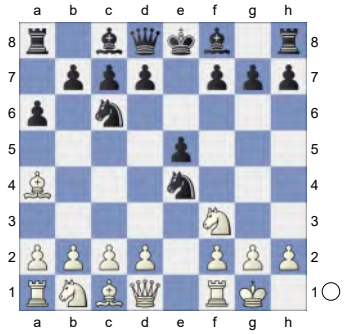
Prevents Qf4+. The position is equal.
31.h4= Rd8 32.Rc1 g5 0.53/20
[32...Rc8= 0.01/22]
[32...Rhh8= -0.01/22]



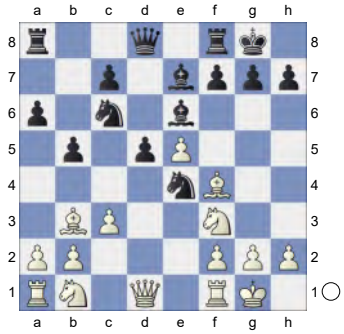
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
½-½

36 **C83**
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2770**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu**
Superbet ROM Classic 2024 (7.1) 3.7.24
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 The modern move.Der moderne Zug. **10.Bf4** The position is equal.
10...0-0



11.Nd4 Qd7N
[11...Nxd4 12.cxd4 f6 13.Nd2 *(13.Nc3 fxe5 14.Bxe5 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Qd7 16.Qe2 Rae8 17.a4 c5 18.axb5 axb5 19.Ra6 c4 20.Bc2 Bf5 21.Rfa1 Bf6 22.f4 Bxe5 23.fxe5 Bxc2 24.Qxc2 Qg4 25.Qd2 h5 26.Qe3 Rf4 27.Ra8 Rxa8* 6.0-0 a5 7.Re1 0-0 8.Nbd2 - P-Noteboom 6.e3 b5 7.Nd2 #1 | l 6. ♔f1 ♘c6 1887 Mega2023 Update 22

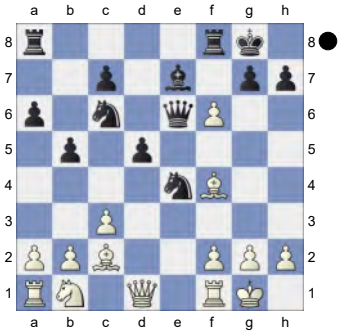
[Glatman] 1-0 (35) *28.Rxa8+ Kh7 29.Ra1 b4 30.h3 Qg5 31.Re1 bxc3 32.e6 c2 33.e7 Re4 34.Qxg5 Rxe1+ 35.Kf2* 1-0 (35) Duz Hotimirsky,F-Euwe,M London 1887 [01: Active Bishop]*)* 13...Nxd2 14.Qxd2 c6 15.Rac1 Rc8 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Bc2 Qd7 18.Bg5 Bxg5 19.Qxg5 Bf5 20.Bxf5 Qxf5 21.Qxf5 Rxf5 22.g3 Rf3 23.Rfd1 Kf7 24.Kg2 Rf6 25.Rd3 Re8 26.Rc2 Motylev,A (2677)-Mikhalevski,V (2538) Gibraltar 2018 [Mikhalevski,Victor] ½-½ (54)]

[11...Na5 12.f3 Nxb3 13.axb3 Nc5 14.b4 Nd7 15.Nc6 Qe8 16.Nd2 Bh4 17.Bg3 Bxg3 18.hxg3 f6 19.Re1 fxe5 20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.Rxe5 Qg6 22.Nb3 Bf7 23.g4 Rfe8 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Qd2 Re5 26.Nd4 Grischuk,A (2761)-Mamedyarov,S (2800) Paris 2017 CBM 179 [Yermolinsky,Alex] 1-0 (44)]

12.Bc2 f6N

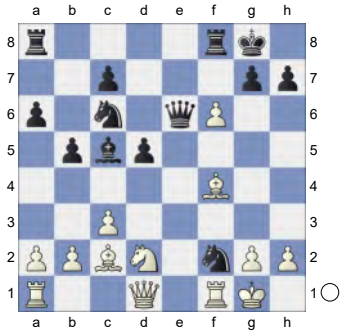
[Vorgänger: 12...f5 13.f3 Nc5 14.Re1 Na4 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.Bxa4 bxa4 17.Nd2 a3 18.bxa3 g5 19.Be3 f4 20.Bd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 ½-½ Hatzl, J (2505)-Novikovas,V (2517) EU-chT11 fin email 2021]

13.Nxe6 Qxe6 14.exf6



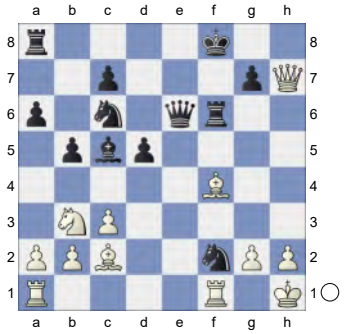
Black must now prevent Re1. **14...Bc5!** Hoping for ...Nxf2. **15.Nd2 Nxf2**

(Diagram)



Pair of Knights! **16.Qh5⇄** White is not holding back **16...Rxf6** aiming for ...g6. **17.Qxh7+ Kf8 18.Nb3 Rxf4**

[18...Nh3+ 19.Kh1 Nf2+

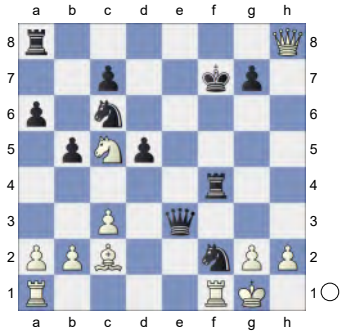


20.Rxf2! *(20.Kg1 Bb6=)* 20...Bxf2 21.Bg5±]

19.Nxc5 Chess con chili. **19...Qe3 20.Qh8+!**

[20.Nd7+? Ke8 21.Qg8+ *(21.Rfe1 Nh3+ 22.Kh1 Rf1+ 23.Rxf1 Qg1+ 24.Rxg1 Nf2#)* 21...Kxd7-+]

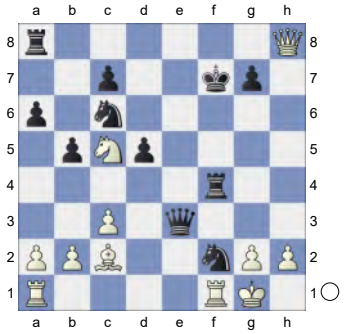
20...Kf7



21.Qh5+ Kf8

[21...Ke7!? 22.Qg5+ Kd6 23.Nb7+ Ke6 24.Bf5+ *(24.Qg6+ Ke7=)* 24...Kf7 25.Bg6+ *(25.Qg6+ Kf8∓)*

25...Ke6=]
22.Qh8+! Kf7 23.Qh5+ Kf8
(-> ...Nd1+)
[23...Ke7!? 24.Qg5+ Kd6 25.Nb7+ Ke6 26.Bf5+ *(26.Qg6+ Ke7=)* 26...Kf7 27.Bg6+ *(27.Qg6+ Kf8∓)* 27...Ke6=]
24.Qh8+! Kf7

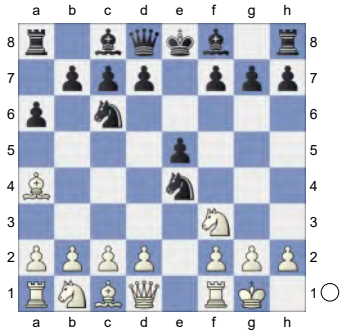


An even fight not without its subleties.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

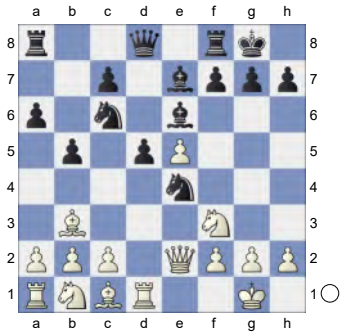
37 **C81**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2830**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu**
Norway Chess 12th (8) 04.06.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C81: Open Ruy Lopez: Keres Variation (9 Qe2)
1.e4 0.15 **e5** 0.17 **2.Nf3** 0.11 **Nc6** 0.19 **3.Bb5** 0.16 **a6** 0.38 **4.Ba4** 0.14 **Nf6** 0.25 **5.0-0** 0.23 **Nxe4** 0.27

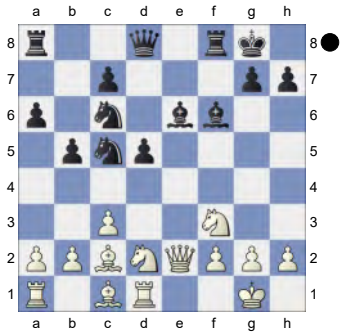
(Diagram)



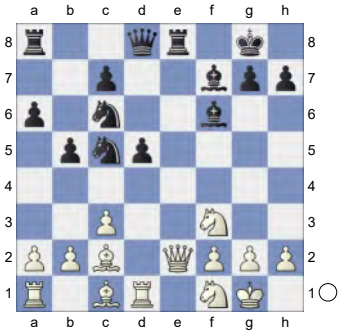
6.d4 0.31 **b5** 0.19 **7.Bb3** 0.33 **d5** 0.25 **8.dxe5** 0.44 **Be6** 0.28 **9.Qe2** 0.16 **Be7** 0.18 **10.Rd1** 0.07 **0-0** 0.07



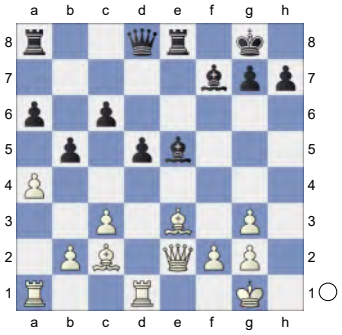
11.c3 0.11 **f5** 0.13 **12.exf6** 0.09 **Bxf6** 0.15 **13.Nbd2** 0.11
[13.Qxe4? dxe4 14.Bxe6+ Kh8 15.Rxd8 Raxd8-+]
13...Nc5 0.16 **14.Bc2** 0.14



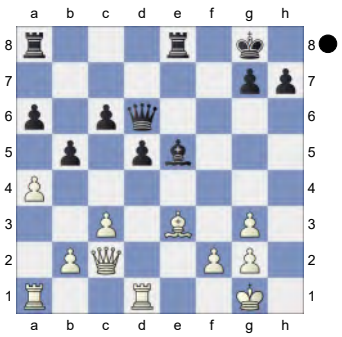
aiming for Nb3. **14...Re8** 0.12 **15.Nf1N** 0.00
[15.Nb3 Bg4 16.Be3 Ne4 Open Spanish Qe2-9.Qe2 #3]
15...Bf7 0.16
[15...Bg4!? -0.08/19 is more appropriate. 16.Ne3 Qd7=]



16.Be3= 0.15 **Ne4** 0.18 **17.Ng3** 0.22
Black must now prevent Nxe4. **17...Nxg3** 0.25
[17...Nd6!= 0.17/18 is superior.]
18.hxg3± 0.29 **Ne5** 0.36 **19.Nxe5** 0.33 **Bxe5** 0.31 **20.a4** 0.25
[20.Qd3 Bg6 21.Qd2 Bxc2 22.Qxc2 c6=]
20...c6 0.22

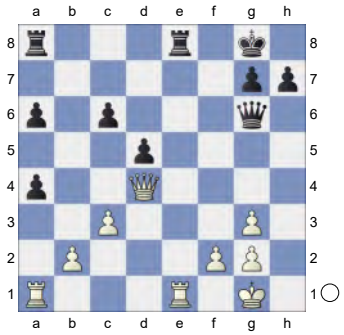


21.Qd2 0.23
[Much weaker is 21.Qd3 Bg6 22.Qd2 Bxc2=]
21...Qd6 0.39 **22.Re1** 0.39
[Not Stronger than 22.Qd3 Bg6 23.Qe2 Bxc2 24.Qxc2

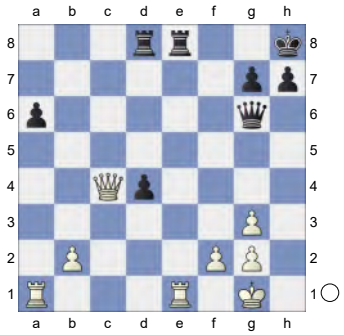


Bxg3!∓]

22...Bg6 0.04 **23.Bxg6** 0.04
[⌓23.Bd1 0.67/17]
23...Qxg6 0.12 **24.Bd4** 0.12 **Bxd4** 0.14 **25.Qxd4** 0.07 **bxa4** 0.09
[25...Rxe1+= 0.16/21 remains equal. 26.Rxe1 Re8 27.Rxe8+ Qxe8]

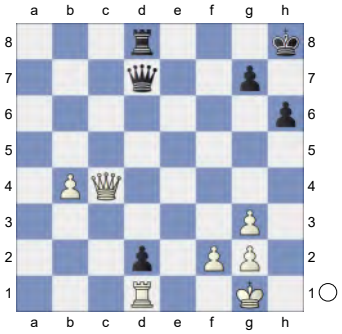


26.Qxa4 0.01 **c5** 0.28 **27.Qd7** 0.01 **Rad8** 0.07 **28.Qc7** 0.07 &Bianco is more active. **28...d4** 0.08 **29.cxd4** 0.01 **cxd4** 0.08 **30.Qc4+** 0.07 **Kh8** 0.05

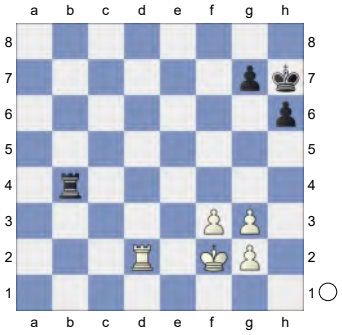


31.Rxe8+ 0.05 **Qxe8±** 0.04 Endgame KQR-KQR **32.Rd1** 0.04
[Reject Don't play 32.Rxa6 d3 33.Ra1 d2∓]
32...Qd7 0.67/25
[⌓32...Qe4 0.33/25]
33.Qxa6 0.07 **d3** 0.07 **34.b4** 0.00 **h6** 0.05 **35.Qc4** 0.00 **d2** 0.03

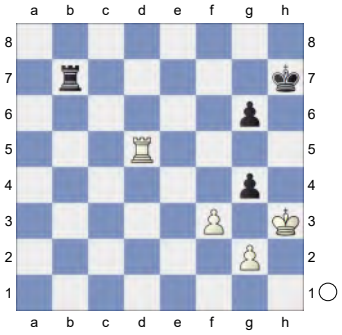
(Diagram)



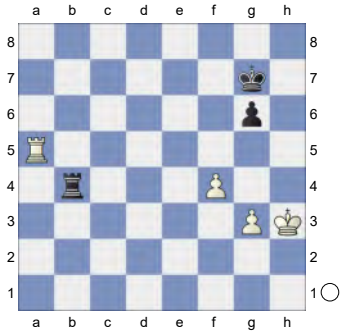
36.Qe2! 0.07 Inhibits Qe7. **36...Qd3** 0.03
[36...Qc7!= -0.01/20]
37.Qxd3 0.06 **Rxd3** 0.08 KR-KR **38.f3** 0.00 **Kh7** 0.03 **39.Kf2** 0.00
[39.g4 is more complex. Kg6 40.Kf2 h5 41.Ke2]
39...Rb3 0.06 **40.Rxd2** 0.06 And now Rd4 would win. Hoping for Rd4. **40...Rxb4** 0.08



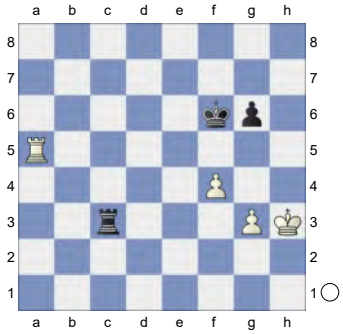
41.Rd5 0.00 **Rb2+** 0.00 **42.Kg1** 0.03 **Rb7** 0.03 **43.Kh2** 0.04 **g6** 0.06 **44.Kh3** 0.00 **h5** 0.04 **45.g4** 0.04 **hxg4+** 0.04



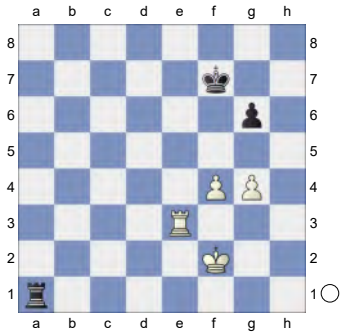
46.Kxg4 0.02 **Kh6** 0.02 **47.Ra5** 0.04
[47.Rb5? -18.77/31 47.Kg3 0.67]
47...Rb4+ 0.08 **48.f4** 0.11 **Rb2** 0.00 **49.Kh3** 0.00 **Rb4** 0.00 **50.g3** 0.02 **Kg7** 0.00



51.Kh4 0.02 **Rc4** 0.03 **52.Ra7+** 0.03 **Kf6** 0.03 **53.Kg4** 0.03 **Rc3** 0.02 **54.Ra5** 0.02 **Rb3** 0.02 **55.Kh3** 0.02 **Rc3** 0.03

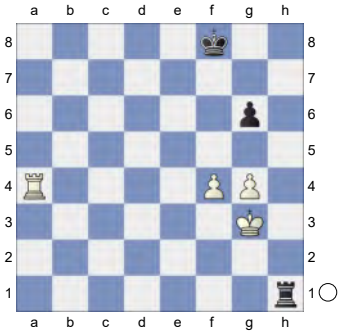


56.Re5 0.11 **Rc2** 0.03 **57.g4** 0.03 **Rc3+** 0.03 **58.Kg2** 0.07 **Ra3** 0.00 **59.Kf2** 0.02 **Kf7** 0.00 **60.Re3** 0.00 **Ra1** 0.02



61.Rb3 0.00 **Kg7** 0.00 **62.Kg3** 0.00 **Rf1** 0.00 **63.Rb7+** 0.00 **Kg8** 0.00 **64.Ra7** 0.00 **Kf8** 0.03 **65.Ra4** 0.02 **Rh1** 0.00

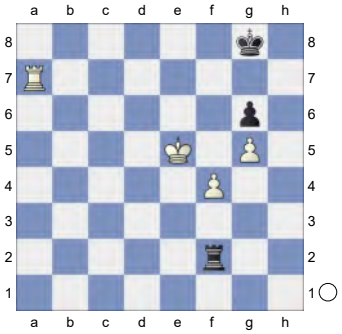
(Diagram)



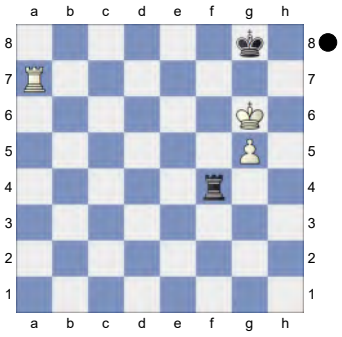
66.Kf3 0.02 **Rg1** 0.00 **67.g5** 0.00 **Rf1+** 0.00 **68.Ke4** 0.00 **Kg7** 0.00 **69.Ra7+** 0.00 **Kg8** 1.05/30

[69...Kf8± 0.57/33]

70.Ke5± 0.00 **Rf2** 0.00



71.Kf6 0.00 **Rxf4+** 0.00 **72.Kxg6** 0.00 White wants to mate with Ra8+.



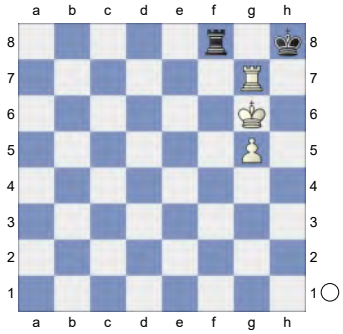
Intending Ra8+ and mate. **72...Rf8** 0.00 Prevents Ra8. Against Ra8 **73.Rg7+** 0.00 **Kh8** 0.00 **74.Rh7+** 0.00 **Kg8** 0.00 **75.Rg7+** 0.01/5

[White should try 75.Rc7± 1.05/38]

[75.Re7± 0.99/39]

75...Kh8 0.00

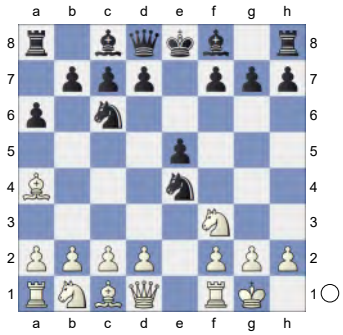
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
½-½

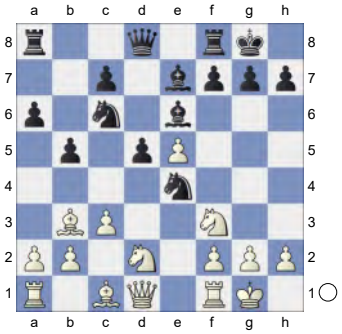
38 **C83**
□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2770**
■ **Sevian,Samuel** **2699**
Chess.com Play In Match Div 1 rapid (2.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

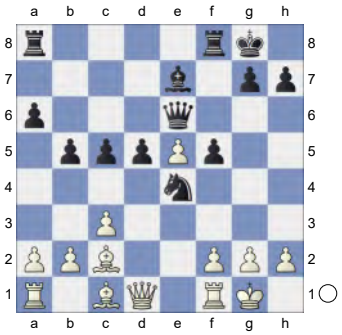


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0

(Diagram)



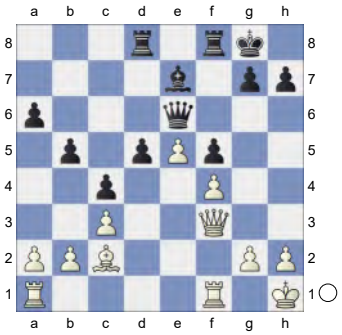
11.Bc2 f5 12.Nb3 Qd7 13.Nbd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 c5 15.Nxe6 Qxe6



16.f3 Ng5 17.Bxg5 Bxg5 18.f4 White is slightly better. **18...Be7 19.Qf3 c4**

[19...Rad8 20.Rfd1 g6 21.Rd2 Rd7 22.Rad1 Rfd8 23.h3 h5 24.g4 hxg4 25.hxg4 fxg4 26.Qh1 Bf8 27.Qh4 Bg7 28.Qg5 Kf7 29.Re2 Re7 30.f5 gxf5 31.Bxf5 Qh6 32.Bg6+ 1-0 (32) Persse,D (2709)-Levitina,I (2675) London 2020 76 telechess [chessvibes]]

20.Kh1 Rad8



21.Rad1 Bc5 22.g4N -0.46/20

[22.b3± 0.44/21]

[22.Rd2 d4 *(22...Rd7 23.h3 g6 24.Rfd1 Rfd8 25.g4 fxg4 26.hxg4 d4 27.cxd4 Rxd4 28.Rxd4 Rxd4 29.Rxd4 Bxd4 30.b3 Kg7* Chapter-Games Game 3*)* 23.cxd4 Rxd4 24.Rxd4 Bxd4 25.g4 fxg4 26.Qe4 Rd8 27.Qxh7+ Kf8 28.Rd1 Bb6 29.Rxd8+ Bxd8 30.Qh8+ Qg8 31.Qxg8+ Kxg8 8.♕e2 cd4 9.♖d1 (2511)-Henry,S (2565) Prague 2006 Telechess CBM 89 [Olsson; Korrschack 3/2001] (31)]

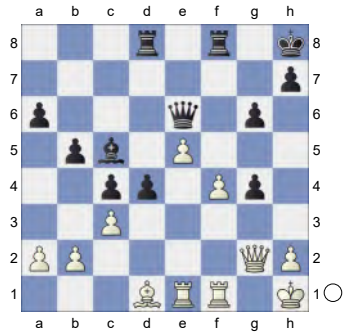
22...fxg4∓ 23.Qg2 -1.14/17

[23.Qe2!= -0.26/18 remains equal.]

23...Kh8 24.Rde1 g6 Prevents f5.

25.Bd1 d4 -0.64/20

[Better is 25...h5∓ -0.96/19 And now ...d4 would win. 26.h3 gxh3]



26.Bxg4 Qe7 27.cxd4 Rxd4 28.Re4 Rfd8 -0.25/18

[28...Qd8∓ -1.03/21 aiming for ...Rd2. 29.e6 Qd5]

29.f5 -1.40/19

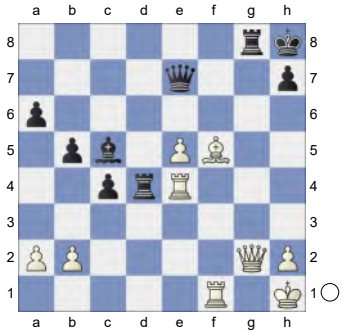
[29.Rxd4= -0.25/18 Bxd4 30.e6]

29...gxf5∓ 30.Bxf5 -1.04/23

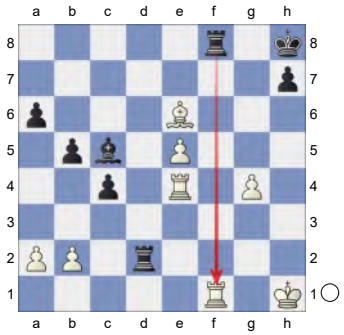
[⌓30.Rxd4 -1.35/22 Bxd4 31.Rxf5]

30...Rg8

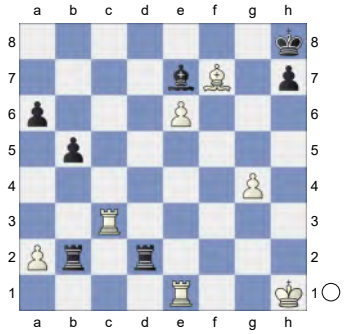
(Diagram)



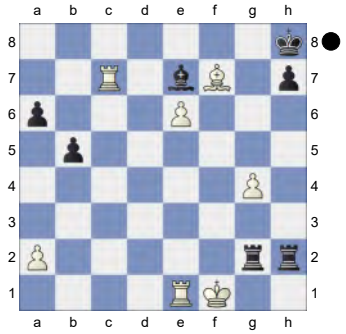
31.Qf3 Qg7 Hoping for ...Rxe4. **32.h3** -2.41/21
[32.Qg3∓ -1.21/20]
32...Rd3!-+ 33.Qg4 Rd2! 34.Be6 Qxg4
[34...Rxb2 35.Bxg8 Qxg8 36.Qxg8+ Kxg8 37.e6+-]
35.hxg4 Rf8
[Resist 35...Rxb2 36.Bxg8 Kxg8 37.e6+-]
[35...Rg6 36.Bf7 Rc6 37.g5∓]



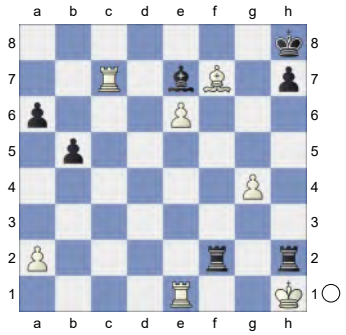
36.Bf7? -5.19/22
[36.Rxf8+∓ -1.38/19 Bxf8 37.Rf4]
36...Rxb2 Strongly threatening ...c3.
37.e6 c3? -0.87/23
[37...Be7-+ -4.82/22 and Black stays clearly on top. 38.g5 c3]
38.Rc1∓ Be7
[38...Rxa2? 39.e7! Bxe7 40.Bxa2+-]
39.Rxc3 Rd8 (-> ...Rd1+)
[But not 39...Rxa2 40.Rc7 Rd8 41.Re1=]
40.Re1 Against Rd1 **40...Rdd2!**
[Don't play 40...Rxa2?! 41.Rc7 Rdd2 42.Rxe7=]



Threatens to win with ...Rh2+. **41.Rc7 Rh2+ 42.Kg1 Rbg2+ 43.Kf1**

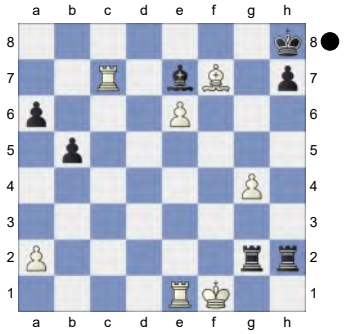


Rf2+ -0.01/5
[Black should try 43...Rxa2!∓ -0.94/27 44.Kg1 Rag2+ 45.Kf1 Rb2!]
44.Kg1= Rhg2+ 45.Kh1 Rh2+



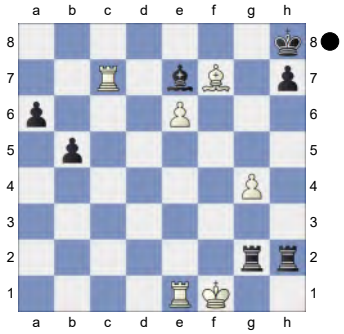
46.Kg1 Rfg2+ 47.Kf1

(Diagram)



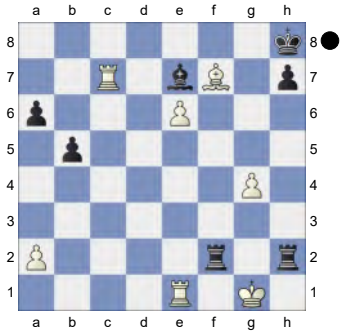
Rf2+ -0.01/5

[47...Rxa2!∓ -1.12/25 48.Kg1 Rag2+ 49.Kf1



Rb2!]

48.Kg1



Weighted Error Value: White=0.48/ Black=0.34

½-½

39 **C83**

□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2760**

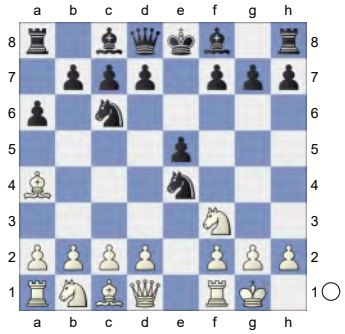
■ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu**

Candidates Tournament (1) 04.04.2024

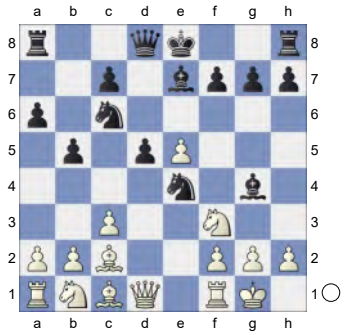
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7

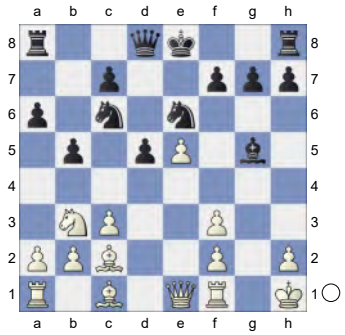
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Bc2 Bg4



11.Qe1 Nc5 12.Nbd2 Ne6 13.Kh1 Bh5 14.Nb3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Bg5

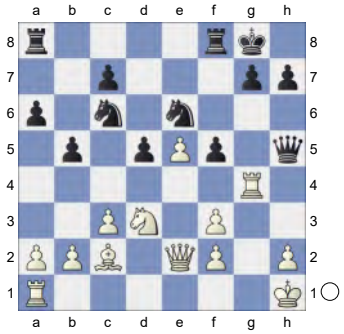


Against f4 **16.Rg1 Bxc1 17.Nxc1N**

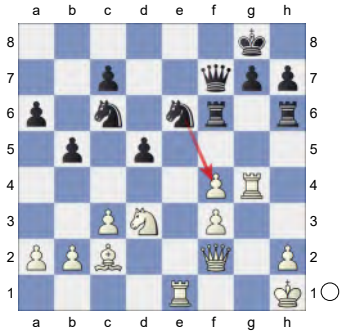
[17.Rxc1 Qh4 18.Qe3 0-0 19.Rce1

Rae8 20.Rg4 Qh5 21.Nd2 g6 22.Nf1 Ng7 23.Rg5 Qh4 24.Qd2 h5 25.Ng3 Nd8 26.Nf5 Nxf5 27.Rxf5 Re6 28.Rg1 Kh7 29.Rfg5 Rb6 30.R1g3 Rg8 31.Bf5 Ne6 Pranav,A (2552)-Bakhrillaev,B (2344) Abu Dhabi 2024 1-0 (40)]

17...Qh4 18.Rg4 Qh5 19.Nd3 0-0 20.Qe2 f5



21.exf6 Rxf6 22.f4 Rh6 23.f3 Rf8 24.Qf2 Rff6 25.Re1 Qf7



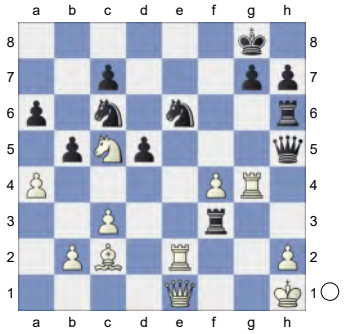
26.Qg3 Rh5 27.a4 Rfh6 -0.21/20

[27...b4∓ -0.53/19 might be stronger.]

28.Re2= Rh3 0.01/21

[28...b4!∓ -0.41/18]

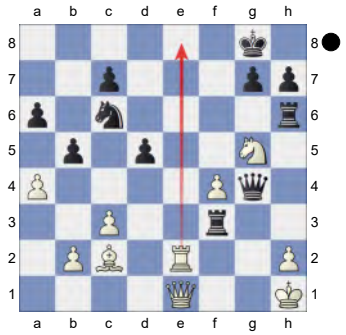
29.Qe1 Rxf3 30.Nc5 Qh5 0.88/23



31.Nxe6 -0.01/23

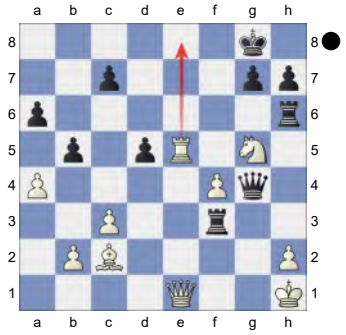
[White should play 31.Reg2!± 0.88/23 Qf7 *(31...Ne5 32.fxe5)* 32.f5! *(32.Nxe6 Qxe6 33.Rxg7+ Kf8±)*]

31...Qxg4 The position is equal. **32.Ng5**

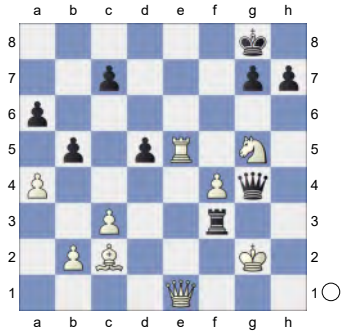


Against Qh3 **32...Ne5! 33.Rxe5**

[33.Bb3 c6]

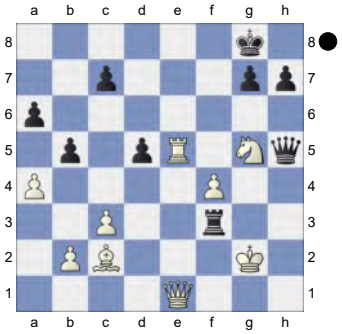


33...Rxh2+! Decoy **34.Kxh2** Dancing on a razor blade. **34...Qh5+ 35.Kg2** White threatens Re8+ and mate. **35...Qg4+**



36.Kh1 Qh5+ 37.Kg2 Threatening mate with Re8+. **37...Qg4+ 38.Kh1 Qh5+ 39.Kg2**

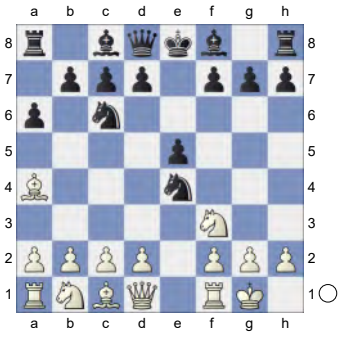
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)
½-½

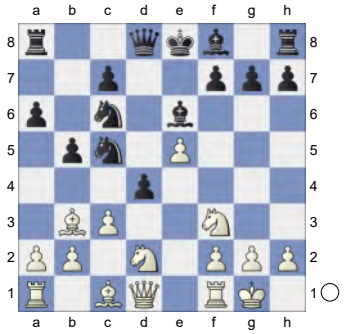
40 **C80**
☐ **Torbot V2** **2941**
■ **Lili Ai** **2868**
Rapid 11.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

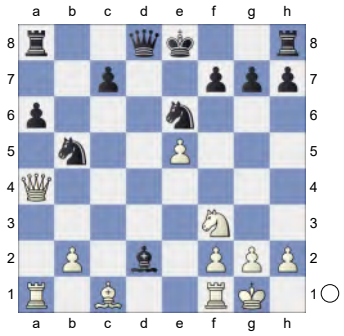


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 d4

(Diagram)



11.Bxe6 Nxe6 12.cxd4 Ncxd4 13.a4 Bb4 14.axb5 Nxb5
[14...axb5? 15.Rxa8 Qxa8 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qg4±]
15.Qa4 Bxd2 0.48/21
[15...c5= 0.14/20 16.Nc4 0-0 17.Be3 Rb8 18.Qd1 Qc8 19.Nd6 Nxd6 20.exd6 c4 21.d7 Qb7 22.Qa4 Bc5 23.Ng5 Bxe3 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.fxe3 Rfd8 26.Qxc4 Qxd7 27.Rxa6 Qd5 28.Qxd5 exd5 29.Rf2 Rb3 30.Re6 Rdb8 Grube,J (2764)-Persse,D (2728) Semey 2022 Sicilian Sveshnikov MBM [Leykekhman,D] ½-½ (92)]



16.Bxd2± 0-0 17.h3N
[17.Rfd1 c5
A) 18.Be3 Qb6 19.Rac1 *(19.h3 Nbc7 20.Rd2 Rad8 21.Rad1 Rxd2 22.Rxd2 Qb5 23.Qc2 h6 24.Nh4 Qb4 25.Nf5 a5 26.Rd7 Qb5 27.Qd2 c4 28.Nxg7 Kxg7 29.Bxh6+ Kg8 30.Rxc7 Qxe5 31.Rxc4 Rd8 32.Qc1 Qe2 33.Rc8 Rxc8* Krzyzanowski,W (2551)-San

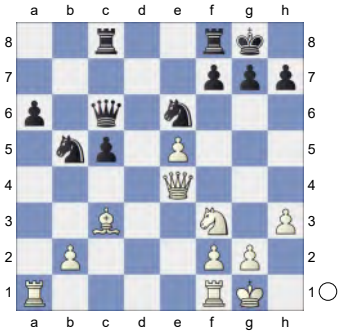
Segundo Carrillo,P (2610) corr 2010 CBM 105 ext [Stcockfish 300121 5min. Analyse] 1-0 (53)) 19...a5 20.Qc4 Rac8 21.Ng5 Nxg5 22.Bxg5 14.g4 hg4 15.♗f6 ♗f6-Acosta,P Tromso 2023 EXT 89op [Lane, CCYB6];

B) 18.Qe4 Qe7 19.Be3 Rfe8 20.h4 h5 21.Re1 Rab8 22.Rxa6 Nbd4 23.Nxd4 Nxd4 24.Bg5 Qb7 25.Qxb7 Rxb7 26.Bc1 Nb3 27.Bf4 Rb4 28.Bg3 Nd4 29.Ra2 Re7 30.Kh2 Reb7 31.Rc1 R7b5 Winslow,E (2419)-San Segundo Carrillo,P (2545) Dortmund 2017 CBM 169 Extra [FS 12/1979 p311] ½-½ (48)]

17...c5 18.Qe4 Qd7 0.65/19
[⌓18...Ra7 0.32/17]

19.Ba5 0.12/18 &Bianco is more active.
[19.Rfd1± 0.65/19]

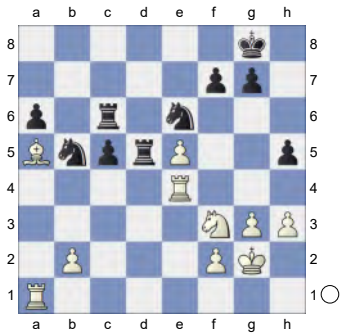
19...Rac8 20.Bc3 Qc6



21.Rfe1 0.15/18
[21.Nd2± 0.46/19]

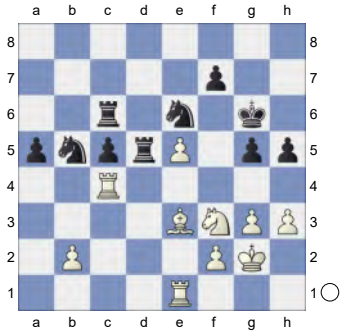
21...Qxe4 22.Rxe4 Rc6 23.g3 Rd8 24.Kg2 h5 25.Ba5 Rd5

(Diagram)



26.Rh4 g6 27.Rc4 g5 28.Re1 0.18/24
[28.b4± 0.59/20 should be considered.]

28...Kg7 29.Bd2 Kg6 30.Be3 a5

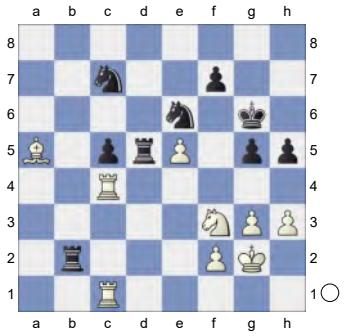


31.Rec1 Nbc7 32.R1c3
[32.Ra1!?]

32...Nb5 Pair of Knights! **33.Rc1 Nbc7 34.Bd2 Rb6**
[34...Ra6 is interesting. 35.Ra1 Nb5 36.Rxa5 Rxa5 37.Bxa5 Nbd4]

35.Bxa5
[35.Bc3 with more complications. Ra6 36.Ra4 Rd3 37.Ne1]

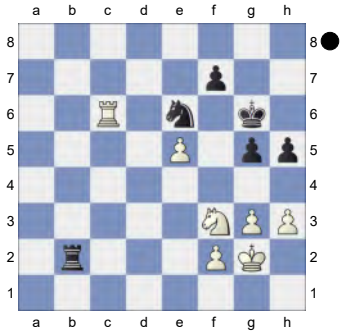
35...Rxb2



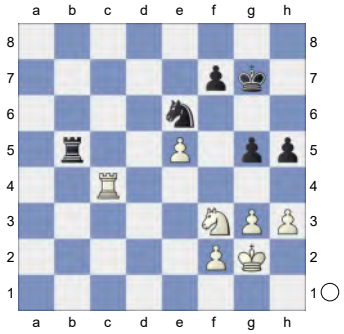
36.Bxc7 Nxc7 37.Rxc5
[37.h4 feels hotter. g4 38.Ng5 Ne6

39.Nxe6 fxe6 40.Rxc5 Rdd2 41.Rf1]

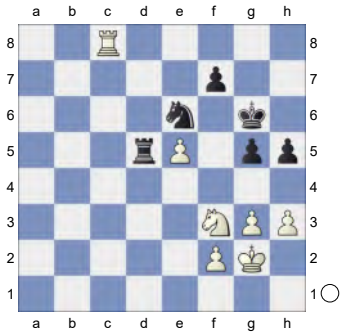
37...Rxc5 38.Rxc5= Endgame KRN-KRN **38...Ne6 39.Rc6**



Black must now prevent Nd4. **39...Rb5 40.Rc4 Kg7**



41.Rc8 Kg6 42.Rg8+ Kh7 43.Re8 Kg7 44.Ra8 Rd5 45.Rc8 Kg6



46.Rg8+ Kh7 47.Rc8 Rb5 0.38/23

[47...Kg6!= -0.01/24 is superior.]

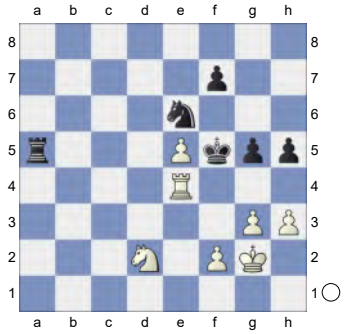
48.Rc4 0.01/22

[48.Ra8± 0.38/23 deserves consideration.]

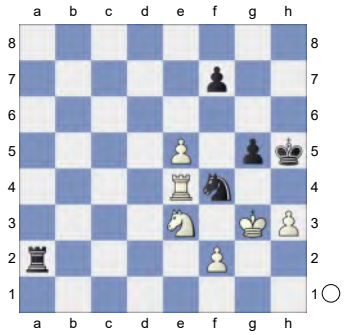
48...Ra5 0.35/22

[48...Kg7= 0.01/22]

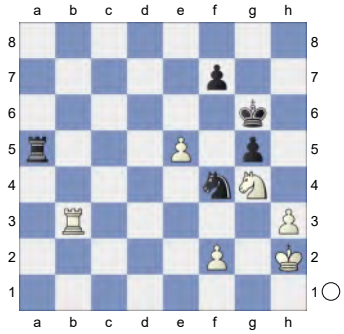
49.Re4± Kg6 50.Nd2 Kf5



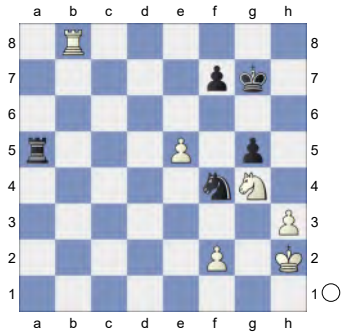
The position is equal. **51.g4+ Kg6 52.gxh5+ Kxh5 53.Nc4 Ra6 54.Ne3 Nf4+ 55.Kg3 Ra2**



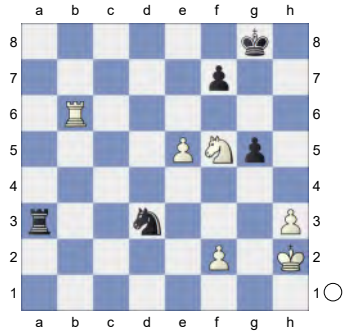
56.Ng4 Ra3+ 57.Re3 Ra1 58.Kh2 Ra2 59.Rf3 Kg6 60.Rb3 Ra5



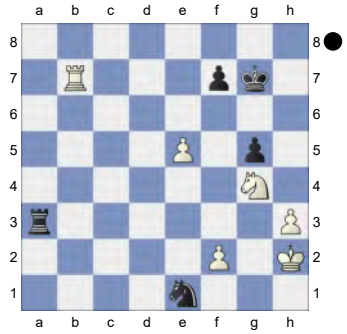
61.Kg3 Ne2+ 62.Kg2 Nf4+ 63.Kg3 Ne2+ 64.Kh2 Nf4 65.Rb8 Kg7



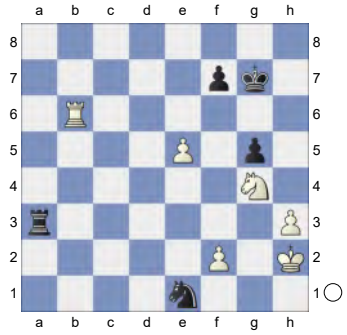
66.Rb6 Ra3 67.Ne3 Nd3 68.Ng4 Nf4 69.Ne3 Nd3 70.Nf5+ Kg8



71.Nh6+ Kf8 72.Ng4 Ne1 73.Rb8+ Kg7 74.Rb7

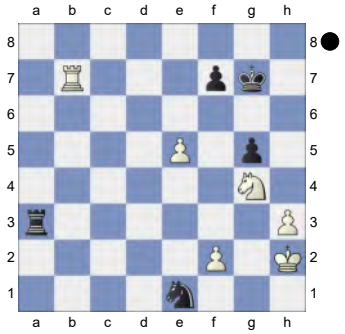


Threatens to win with e6. **74...Kg6 75.Rb6+ Kg7**



76.Rb7 And now e6 would win. **76...Kg6 77.Rb6+ Kg7 78.Rb7**

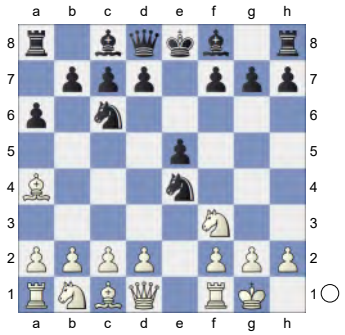
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
½-½

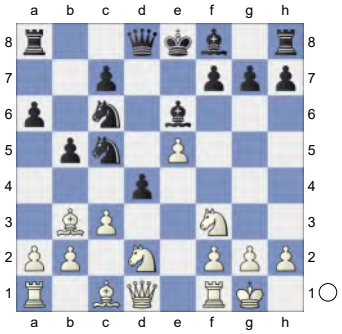
41 **C80**
Torbot V2 **2943**
Lili Ai **2904**
Rapid 09.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 d4

(Diagram)

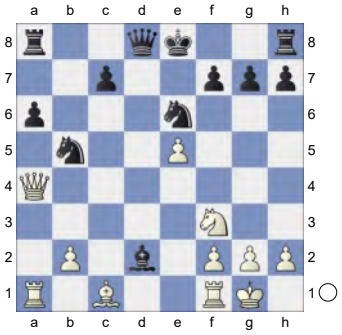


11.Bxe6 Nxe6 12.cxd4 Ncxd4 13.a4 Bb4 14.axb5 Nxb5

[14...axb5? 15.Rxa8 Qxa8 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qg4+-]

15.Qa4 Bxd2

[15...c5 16.Nc4 0-0 17.Be3 Rb8 18.Qd1 Qc8 19.Nd6 Nxd6 20.exd6 c4 21.d7 Qb7 22.Qa4 Bc5 23.Ng5 Bxe3 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.fxe3 Rfd8 26.Qxc4 Qxd7 27.Rxa6 Qd5 28.Qxd5 exd5 29.Rf2 Rb3 30.Re6 Grube,J (2764)-Persse,D (2728) Semey 2022 Sicilian Sveshnikov MBM [Leykekhman,D] ½-½ (92)]



16.Bxd2 0-0 17.h3N

[17.Rfd1 c5

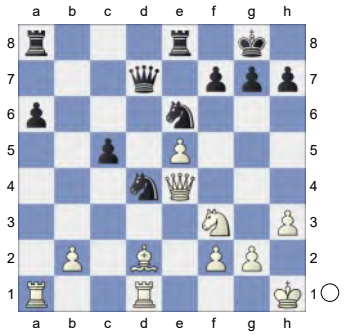
A) 18.Be3 Qb6 19.Rac1 *(19.h3 Nbc7 20.Rd2 Rad8 21.Rad1 Rxd2 22.Rxd2 Qb5 23.Qc2 h6 24.Nh4 Qb4 25.Nf5 a5 26.Rd7 Qb5 27.Qd2 c4 28.Nxg7 Kxg7 29.Bxh6+ Kg8 30.Rxc7 Qxe5 31.Rxc4 Rd8 32.Qc1 Qe2 33.Rc8 Rxc8* Krzyzanowski,W (2551)-San Segundo Carrillo,P (2610) corr 2010 CBM 105 ext [Stcockfish 300121 5min. Analyse] 1-0 (53)*)* 19...a5 20.Qc4 Rac8 21.Ng5 Nxg5 22.Bxg5 14.g4 hg4 15.♗f6 ♗f6-Acosta,P Tromso 2023 EXT 89op [Lane, CCYB6];

B) 18.Qe4 Qe7 19.Be3 Rfe8 20.h4 h5 21.Re1 Rab8 22.Rxa6 Nbd4 23.Nxd4 Nxd4 24.Bg5 Qb7 25.Qxb7 Rxb7 26.Bc1 Nb3 27.Bf4 Rb4 28.Bg3 Nd4 29.Ra2 Re7 30.Kh2 Reb7 31.Rc1 R7b5 Winslow,E (2419)-San Segundo Carrillo,P (2545) Dortmund 2017 CBM 169 Extra [FS 12/1979 p311] ½-½ (48)]

17...c5 18.Qe4 Against Qd5 **18...Qd7 19.Kh1** 0.22/19 &Bianco is more active.

[19.Rfd1!± 0.61/18]

19...Rfe8 20.Rfd1 Nbd4



21.Bc3

[21.Be3!?]

21...Red8 22.Nd2 Qb5 0.62/21 Prevents Nc4.

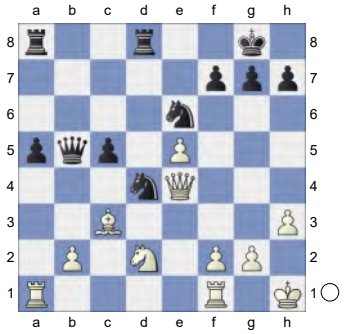
[22...Ng5= 0.25/21 23.Qf4 Nge6]

23.Qh4 -0.01/17

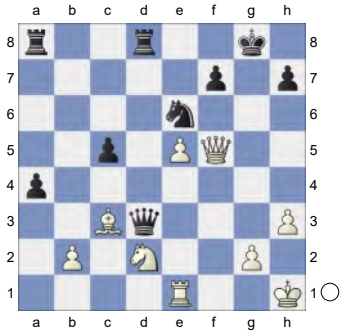
[23.Qg4± 0.62/21]

23...Rd5= 24.Qe4 Rdd8 25.Rf1 a5

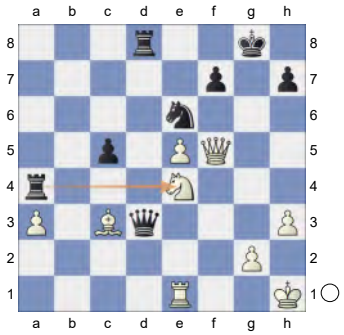
(Diagram)



26.Rae1! a4 0.39/20
[26...g6!= 0.08/20]
27.f4± g6 Against f5 **28.f5! gxf5**
29.Rxf5 Nxf5 30.Qxf5 Qd3
[30...Ng7? 31.Qg5 h6 32.Qxh6 Rxd2 33.Qxd2+-]

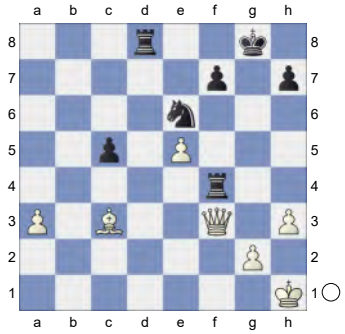


31.Ne4 a3!
[31...Ng7? 32.Qg5 Ra7 33.Nxc5+-]
32.bxa3 Chess con chili.
[Much worse is 32.Rf1 a2 33.Qxf7+ Kh8 34.Qf6+ Ng7=]
32...Ra4

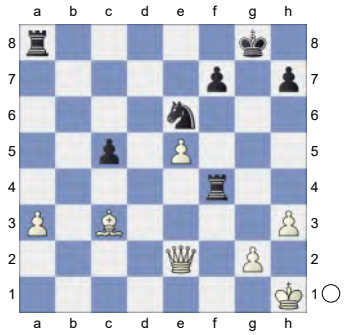


33.Rf1! Qxf1+ 34.Qxf1 Rxe4 35.Qf3 0.52/23
[35.Kh2= 0.01/24]

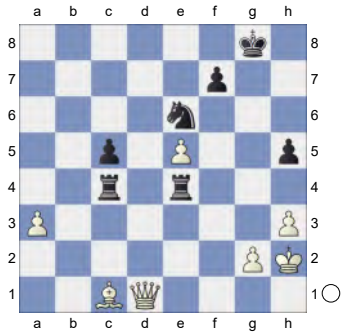
35...Rf4



36.Qe2 Ra8

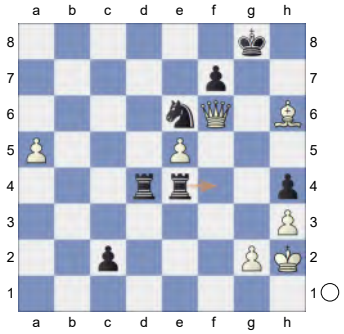


37.Bb2 0.01/24
[37.Bd2!± 0.86/23 Rfa4 38.Bc1]
37...Raa4= 38.Kh2 Rac4 Inhibits Bc1.
39.Qd1 h5 ...Rf2 is the strong threat.
40.Bc1 Rfe4

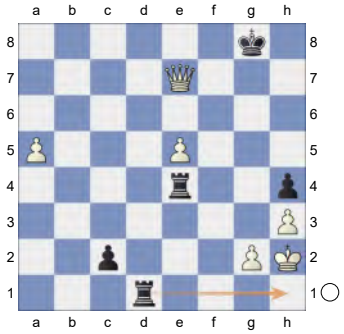


41.Bh6 Threatens to win with Qd7.
41...Rcd4 Prevents Qd7. **42.Qf3 h4** Prevents Qg3+. **43.Qf6 c4 44.a4 c3! 45.a5 c2**

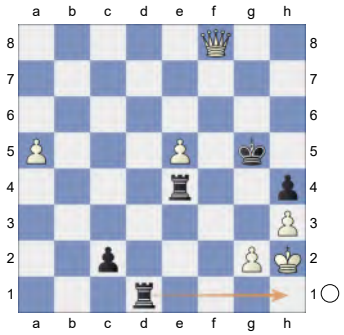
(Diagram)



aiming for ...Rf4! **46.Qe7 Rd1 47.Qe8+ Kh7 48.Qxf7+ Kxh6 49.Qxe6+** Endgame KQ-KRR **49...Kg7 50.Qe7+ Kg8**

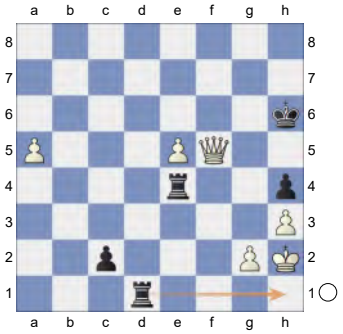


51.Qe6+ Kg7 52.Qe7+ Kg8 53.Qg5+ Kh7 54.Qf5+ Kh6 55.Qf8+ Kg5

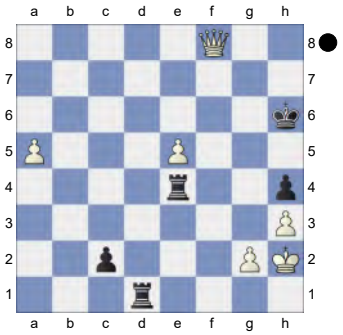


(-> ...Rh1+!) **56.Qf6+ Kh5⇄** Black is not holding back **57.Qf3+** The position is equal. **57...Kh6** Hoping for ...Rh1+! **58.Qf8+ Kg5** Strongly threatening ...Rh1+! **59.Qf6+ Kh5** And now ...Rh1+! would win. **60.Qf5+ Kh6**

(Diagram)



White must now prevent ...Rh1+! **61.Qf8+**

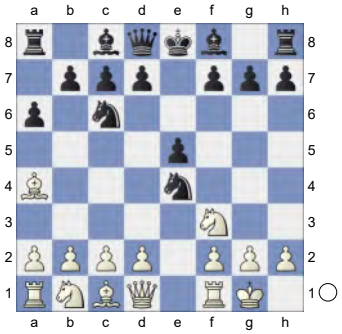


Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
½-½

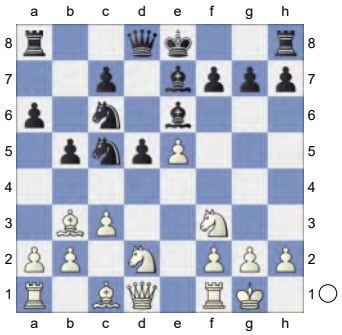
42 **C83**
□ **Stockfish Dev** **3673**
■ **LCZero 0.31-dag-e429eeb-BT3-2**
TCEC 25 Superfinal 2023 (32.1) 12.10.23
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

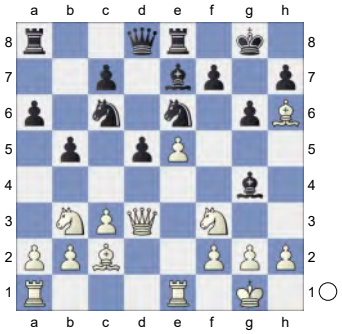
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 Nc5



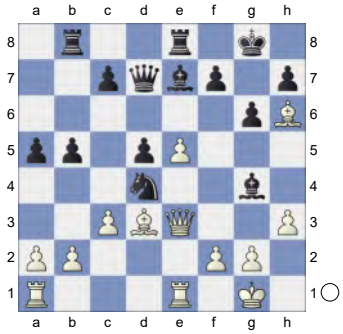
11.Bc2 Bg4 12.Re1 0-0 13.Nb3 Ne6 14.Qd3 g6 15.Bh6 Re8



White is slightly better. **16.Qe3 a5 17.Bd3 Rb8 18.Nfd4 Ncxd4 19.Nxd4 Qd7** Against Nc6 **20.h3** &Bianco is more active. **20...Nxd4N**

[20...c5 21.Nxb5 c4 22.a4 Nc5 23.Bb1 Bf5 24.Bxf5 Qxf5 25.Rad1 Chapter-Games Game 6]

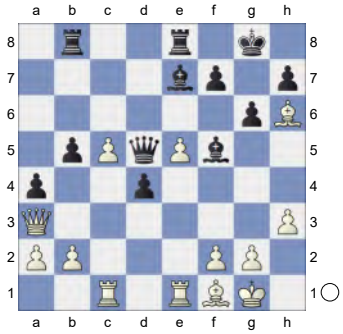
(Diagram)



21.cxd4 Bf5 22.Bf1 0.31/18

[22.Bxf5± 0.74/19 Qxf5 23.Rac1]

22...c5 23.dxc5 d4 24.Qa3 a4 25.Rac1 Qd5



26.e6 Bxe6 27.Qg3 0.35/19

[27.Bf4± 0.71/21]

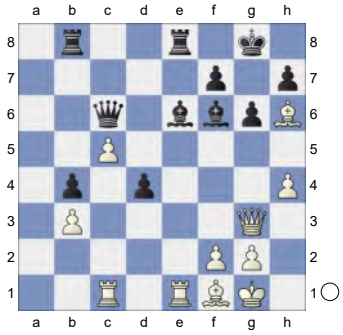
27...Qc6 0.79/22

[27...Bxc5± 0.35/19 28.Bf4 *(28.Re5 Bd6=)* 28...Ba7]

28.b4± axb3 29.axb3

[29.Qe5 Bf8 30.Bxf8 Rxf8 31.axb3 Rbd8=]

29...b4 30.h4 Bf6

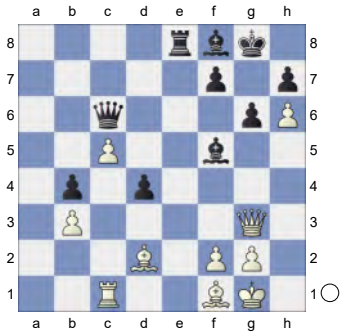


31.h5 Ra8 1.04/19

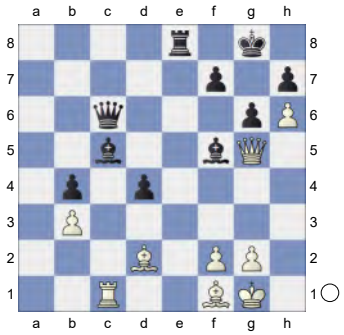
[⌓31...Rbd8 0.73/20]

32.Bf4! Bf5 1.19/19

[⌓32...Rad8 0.75/19]
33.Rxe8+ Rxe8 34.h6 Inhibits Bg7.
34...Be7 35.Bd2 Bf8
[35...Bxc5? 36.Bxb4! Bd6 37.Rxc6+-]

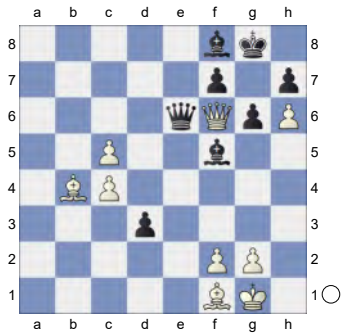


36.Qg5 0.55/21
[36.Qf4+- 1.65/21]
36...d3 1.82/23
[36...Bxc5?

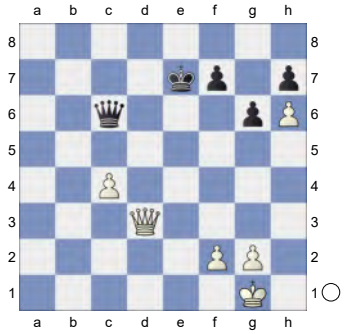


37.Bxb4! f6 38.Rxc5!+-]
[36...Re4± 0.55/21]
37.Bxb4+- Qd5 2.46/22
[37...f6 1.75/19 might work better. 38.Qd2 Qb5]
38.Rc4 1.14/22
[38.Bc3+- 2.46/22 and White stays clearly on top. Be7 39.Qe3]
38...Re4 1.48/24
[⌓38...Be6 1.14/22 39.Qe3 Rb8]
39.Qf6 White wants to mate with Rxe4.
39...Rxc4 40.bxc4 White threatens Bc3 and mate. **40...Qe6**

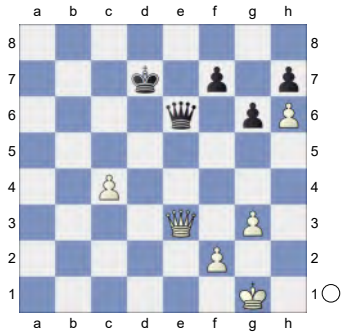
(Diagram)



41.Qc3 Qd7 42.c6 Qxc6 43.Bxf8 Kxf8 44.Bxd3 Bxd3 45.Qxd3± Endgame Threatens to win with Qd8+. KQ-KQ **45...Ke7**

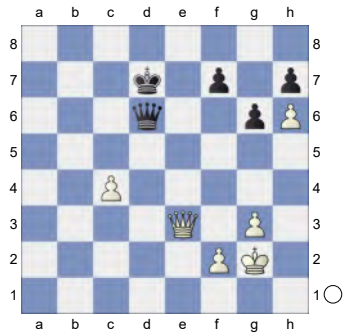


Prevents Qd8+. **46.Qe3+ Kd7 47.Qa7+ Ke6 48.Qd4 Qd6 49.Qe3+ Kd7 50.g3 Qe6**

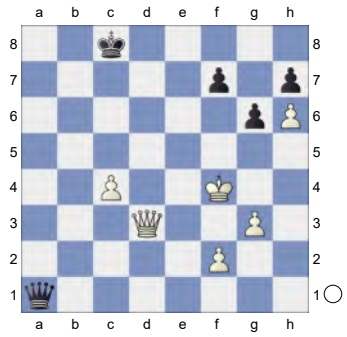


51.Qd4+ Qd6 52.Qa7+ Ke8 53.Qe3+ Kd7 54.Kf1 Qd1+ 55.Kg2 aiming for Qf3. **55...Qd6**

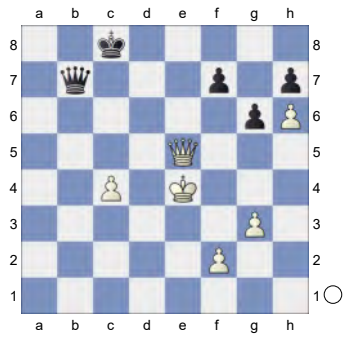
(Diagram)



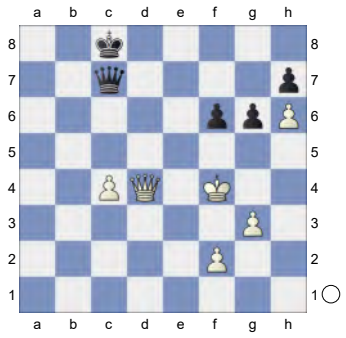
56.Qe4 Qc5 57.Kf3 Qa3+ 58.Qe3 Qa8+ 59.Kf4 Qa1 Prevents Qd4+. **60.Qd3+** 0.99/21
[Better is 60.Qd2+ 1.40/21 Kc7 61.Qe3]
60...Kc8 1.48/21
[Black should play 60...Kc7 0.99/21]



61.Qd5 Qf6+ 62.Ke3 Qe7+ 1.70/24
[62...Qc3+± 1.32/20 was called for. 63.Ke2 Qb2+ 64.Kf1 Qb7]
63.Kd3 Qa3+ 64.Ke4 Qe7+ 65.Qe5 Qb7+ 2.00/23
[65...Qf8± 1.55/21 was worth a try. 66.Kd4 Qd8+ 67.Kc3 Qf8]

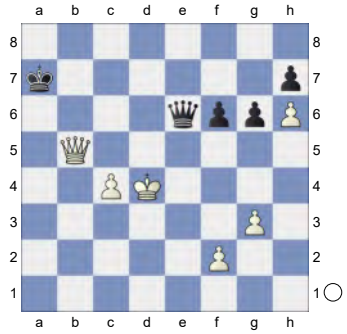


66.Kf4+- Qc6 Prevents Qe8+. **67.Qh8+** 1.19/22
[67.Qe7+- 1.81/23 f6 68.c5 *(68.Qxh7 Qxc4+ 69.Kf3 Qc6+ 70.Kf4 Qc4+ 71.Kf3 Qc6+ 72.Kg4 Qe6+ 73.Kh4 Qe4+ 74.Kh3 Qh1+ 75.Kg4 Qe4+ 76.f4 Qe2+ 77.Kh3 Qf1+ 78.Kh2 Qf2+ 79.Kh3 Qf1+ 80.Kh2 Qf2+ 81.Kh3 Qf1+=)*]
67...Kd7? 2.84/23
[67...Kc7± 1.19/22 keeps fighting.]
68.Qd4+
[68.Qxh7 Qxc4+ 69.Kg5 Ke6=]
68...Kc8 69.Kg5 And now Qd5 would win.
[Don't take 69.Qh8+?! Kc7±]
69...f6+ 70.Kf4
[Resist 70.Qxf6?! Qc5+ 71.Kg4 Qxc4+ 72.Kh3 Qf1+ 73.Kh2 Kc7±]
70...Qc7+ 3.37/24
[⌓70...Qe6 2.24/24 71.g4 Qe2 72.Qc5+ *(72.Qxf6 Qxf2+ 73.Kg5 Qd2+ 74.Kh4 Qxh6+ 75.Kg3 Qe3+ 76.Kg2 Qe4+ 77.Kg3 Qe3+ 78.Kg2 Qe2+ 79.Kh3 Qd3+ 80.Kh4 Kd7=)* 72...Kb7 73.Qd5+ Kb6]



71.Kf3 Black must now prevent Qd5. **71...Kb7 72.Ke3 Qc8 73.Qd5+ Kb6 74.Qb5+ Ka7 75.Kd4** Qc5+ is the strong threat. **75...Qe6**

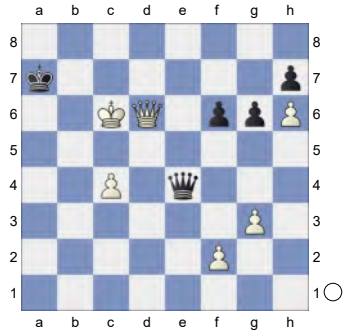
(Diagram)



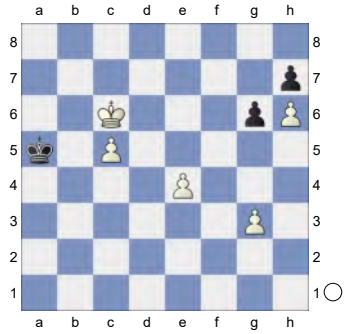
76.Qa5+ Kb8 77.Qd8+ Ka7 78.Kc5 Strongly threatening Qc7+. **78...Qe5+ 79.Kc6** Qb6+ would kill now. **79...Qe6+ 80.Qd6**

[Weaker is 80.Kb5 Qa6+ 81.Kb4 Qb7+ 82.Kc5 Qf7+-]

80...Qe4+

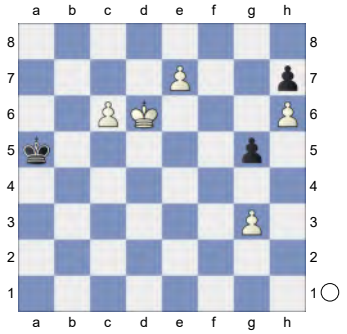


81.Qd5 f5 82.Qxe4 fxe4 KP-KP **83.c5** White mates. **83...e3 84.fxe3 Ka6 85.e4 Ka5**

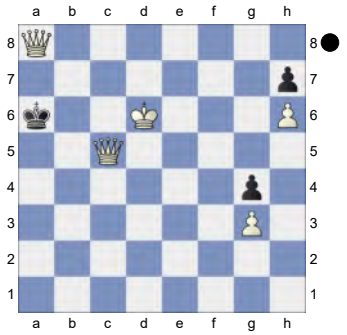


86.e5 Kb4 87.Kd6 Kc4 88.e6 Kb4 89.e7 Ka5 90.c6 g5

(Diagram)



91.c7 Kb6 92.e8Q g4 93.c8Q Ka5 94.Qc5+ Ka6 95.Qa8#



Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)

1-0

43 **C83**

□ **LCZero 0.31-dag-e429eeb-BT3-2**

■ **Stockfish Dev** **3673**

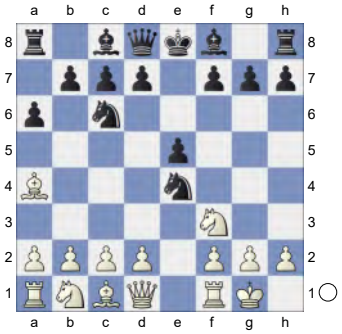
TCEC 25 Superfinal 2023 (31.1) 12.10.23

[Kitty Kat]

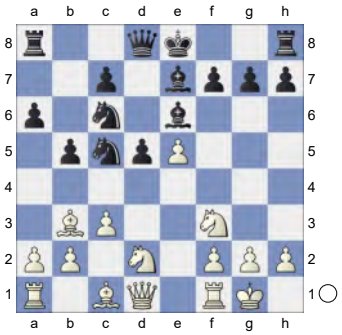
C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7

192MB, Fritz11.ctg, ANINDYA-PC **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 Nc5



11.Bc2 Bg4 12.Re1 0-0 13.Nb3 Ne4 14.Bf4 f5 1.01/20

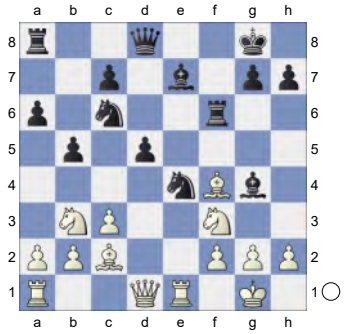
[14...Re8± 0.58/20 feels stronger.]

15.exf6± Rxf6N

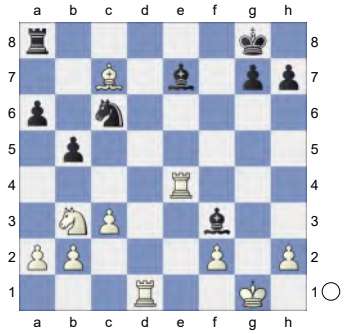
[15...Nxf6

A) 16.Qd3 Qd7 *(16...Ne4 17.Bxc7 Qd7 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.Bxe5 Bh4 20.Bg3 Bxg3 21.hxg3 Bf5 22.Qd4 Rfd8 23.Rad1 Qc7 24.Nd2 Nxf2 25.Bxf5 Nxd1 26.Rxd1 Qxg3 27.Be6+ Kh8 28.Bxd5 Rac8 29.Ne4 Qh4 30.b3 Rc6 31.Qf2* Alekhine,A-Nimzowitsch,A St Petersburg 1914 EXT 2018 [Alekhine,Alexander] 1-0 (47)*)* 17.Ne5 *(17.Ng5 g6 18.Nxh7 Kxh7 19.Qxg6+ Kh8 20.Re3* Variation B1-N,N Hewlett-Packard Company 2008*)* 17...Nxe5 18.Bxe5 g6 19.Qd4 c6 20.f3 Bf5 21.Bxf5 Qxf5 22.Qb6 Qd7 23.a4 Rfc8 24.Qf2 Rf8 25.Qd4 Qc8 26.Bg3 c5 27.Qe3 Rf7 28.axb5 d4 29.Qe6 axb5 30.Ra7 dxc3 Almasi,Z (2595)-Kortschnoj,V (2635) Linz 1997 CBM 93 [Mikhalevski,Viktor] 1-0 (33);

B) 16.h3 Bh5 17.g4 Bf7 18.Ng5 Bd6 19.Be3 10. Ruy Lopez Open (4.Ba4 Nf6-Open 10...Nc5 Mainline #4]

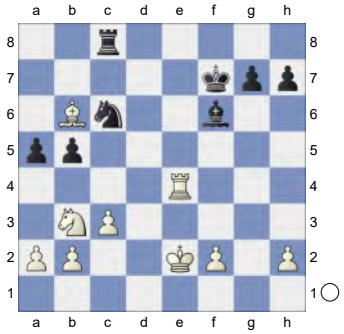


White is better. **16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Rxe4 Qxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Bh5 19.Bxc7** &Bianco is more active. **19...Rxf3 20.gxf3 Bxf3**

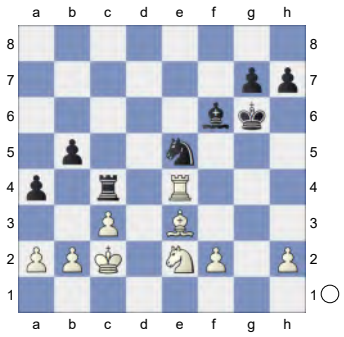


A strong pair of Bishops. **21.Rde1 Bxe4 22.Rxe4 Kf7** Inhibits Re6. **23.Kf1 a5 24.Bb6 Bf6 25.Ke2 Rc8**

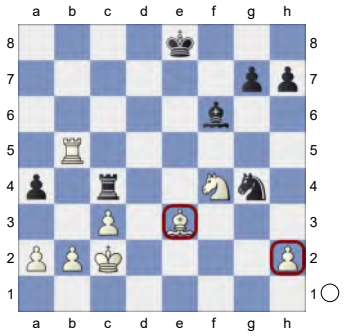
(Diagram)



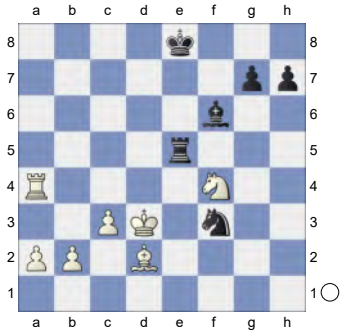
26.Kd3
[Much less strong is 26.Nxa5 Nxa5 27.Bxa5 Ra8±]
26...a4 27.Nd4 Ne5+ 28.Kc2 Kg6 29.Ne2
[29.Nxb5 Rb8=]
29...Rc6 30.Be3 Rb4 is the strong threat. **30...Rc4**



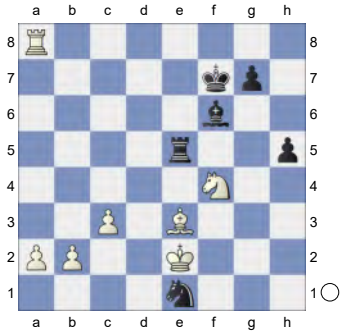
31.Rd4 Strongly threatening b3.
31...Ng4 32.Nf4+ 0.27/21
[32.Rd5± 0.73/21]
32...Kf7= 33.Rd7+ Ke8 34.Rb7 Nxf2 35.Rxb5 Ng4



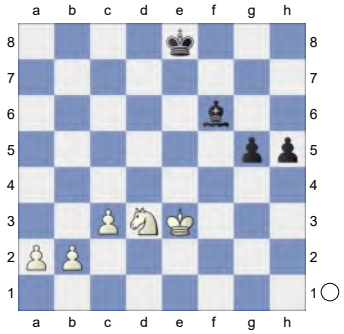
36.Bc1 Nxh2 37.Ra5 Re4 38.Kd3 Re1 39.Bd2 Re5 40.Rxa4 Nf3
(Diagram)



41.Be3! h5 1.11/21
[⌓41...g5 0.80/18]
42.Ng6 Re6 43.Ra8+ Kf7 44.Nf4 Re5 45.Ke2! Ne1 1.37/21

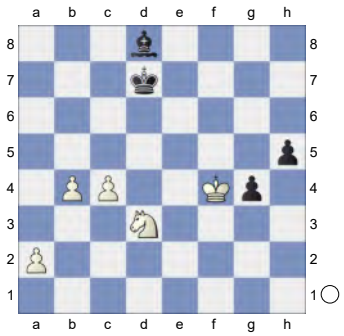


46.Rf8+!!± Kxf8 47.Ng6+ Ke8 48.Nxe5 Endgame Black must now prevent Bf4. K B N - K B N **48...Ng2** Inhibits Bf4. **49.Nd3** 0.74/20
[White should try 49.Bd4 1.46/23]
49...Nxe3 50.Kxe3 g5

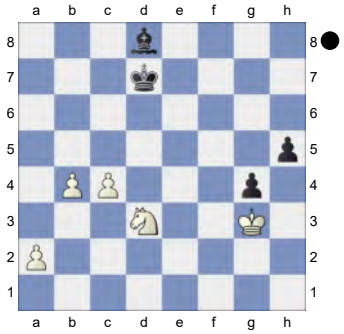


Against Nf4 **51.c4 g4 52.Kf4 Kd7 53.b4 Bd8** 1.38/24
[53...Kc6± 0.62/23]

(Diagram)



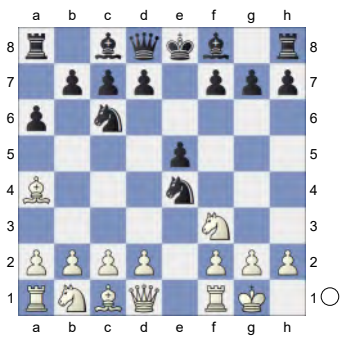
54.Kg3!



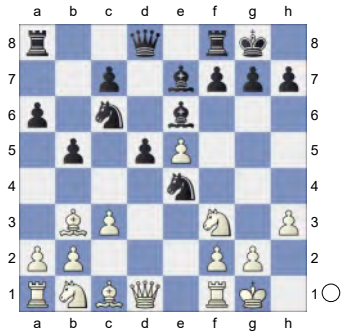
Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

44 **C83**
□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2766**
■ **Yakubboev,Nodirbek** **2634**
UzChess Cup Masters 2024 (3.1) 8.6.24
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 Nowadays more popular than 9... Bc5. Heutzutage beliebter als 9...Lc5.
[9...Bc5 looks sharper. 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Bc2 Bf5]
10.h3 0-0



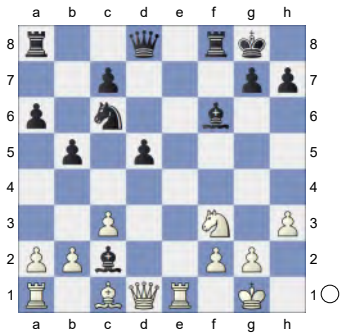
11.Bc2 f6
[11...Qd7 12.Nbd2 f5 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Re1 Bf5 15.Bxf5 Qxf5 16.Nf1 Bc5 17.Be3 Bd6 18.Bg5 Bc5 19.Bxf6 Rxf6 20.Ng3 Qd7 21.Ne4 Be7 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 23.Qd3 Na5 24.Re2 c6 25.Rae1 Nc4 26.Nd4 Grube,J (2760)-Bd7 (2698) Gauthier/ Tactics [John Watson] 1-0 (31)]
[11...Qc8 12.Nbd2 f5 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Re1 Bd6 15.Nf1 Ne7 16.Ng3 Bd7 17.Bg5 Kh8 18.Ne5 Be6 19.Qd3 Bg8 20.Re2 Nd7 21.Ng4 Nc5 22.Qd2 Nc6 23.Rae1 Qd7 24.Nh5 Ne4 25.Bxe4 dxe4 26.b3 Esipenko,A (2620)-Yakubboev,N (2560) Almaty 2022 1-0 (73)]
12.exf6! White is slightly better.
12...Bxf6 13.Nbd2 Bf5N
[13...Nc5 14.Nb3 Nxb3 15.axb3 Kh8 16.Qd3 Bg8 17.Bf4 d4 18.Rad1 dxc3 19.Qf5 Qe8 20.Rfe1 Qg6 21.Qxg6 hxg6 22.bxc3 Bxc3 23.Re4 Nb4 24.Bd2 Nxc2 25.Rh4+ Bh7 26.Bxc3 b4 27.Bb2 Rad8 28.Rxd8 Vaisman,V (2601)-13.f4 ♗g7 14.0-0 e6_19421 (2644) Dubai UAE 2023 CT-2292 [John Watson] 1-0 (33)

Rxd8 29.Ng5 Kg8 30.Rxh7 Rd1+ 31.Kh2 Nd4 32.Rh4 c5 33.Re4 1-0 (33) Paravyan,D (2601)-Gledura,B (2644) Chess.com INT 2023]

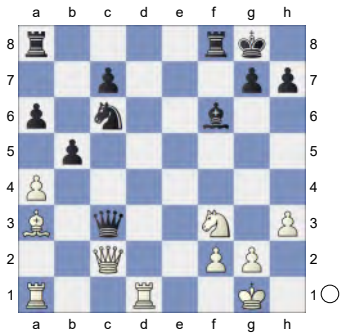
14.Nxe4N

[Vorgänger: 14.Nb3 0.08/17 14.Re1 0.73 Qd6 15.Nbd4 Bg6 16.Ne2 Ne5 17.Nf4 -0.51/22 *(White should try 17.Bf4=* 0.02/18 *)* 17...Rad8 0.21/19 *(17...Nxc3!∓* -0.51/22 *18.bxc3 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 Be5)* 18.Nd4 -0.15/18 *(⌓18.Nxg6* 0.21/19 *Nxg6 19.Be3)* 18...Rde8 19.Nxg6 Nxg6 20.Nf5 1-0 Hunt,A (2288)-Sepman,Y (2225) GER-ch U20 int 1999 (9)]

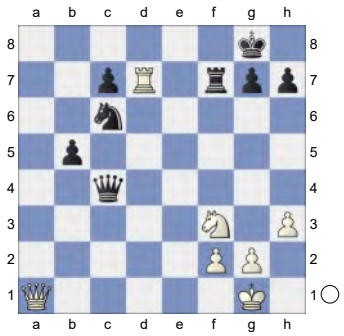
14...Bxe4 15.Re1 Bxc2!



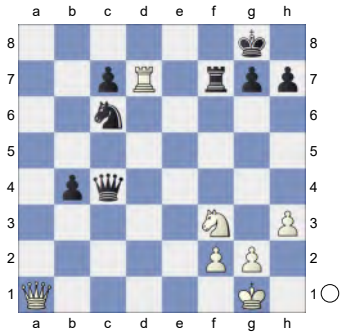
16.Qxc2 d4 17.Rd1 &Bianco is more active. **17...Qe7** Against Be3 **18.a4!** Hoping for axb5. **18...dxc3 19.bxc3 Qc5 20.Ba3 Qxc3**



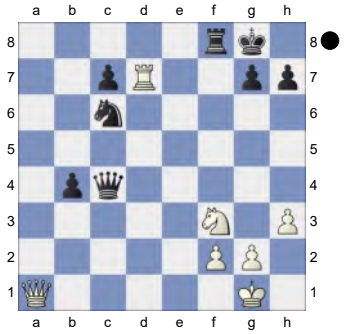
21.Qa2+ Qc4 The position is equal. **22.Bxf8 Bxa1 23.Qxa1 Rxf8 24.axb5 axb5 25.Rd7⇄** White is not keeping still **25...Rf7**



26.Qa8+ Rf8 27.Qa1 Against Qc1+ **27...Rf7 28.Qa8+ Rf8 29.Qa3** Prevents Qc1+. **29...b4 30.Qa1 Rf7**



31.Qa8+ Rf8 32.Qa1 Rf7 33.Qa8+ Rf8 34.Qa1



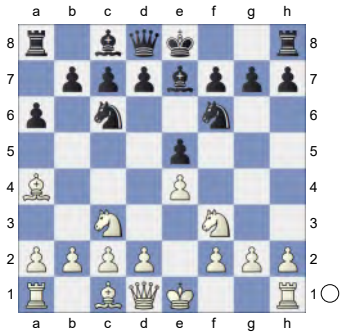
Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

½-½

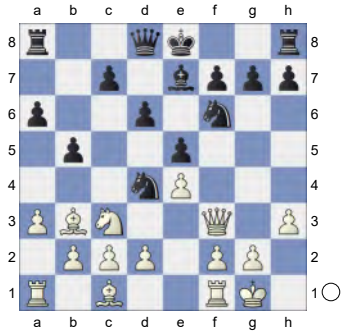
45 **C84**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2830**
■ **Keymer,Vincent** **2738**
Wch Rapid Samarkand (9) 27.12.2023
[Harry Grieve]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves

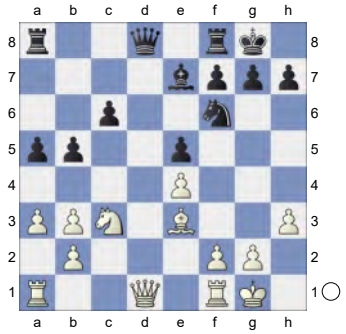
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7



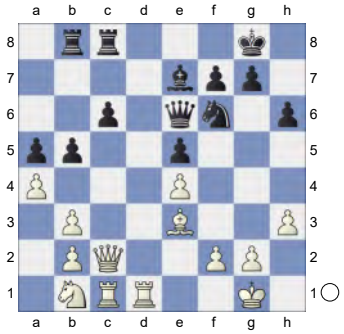
6.0-0 b5
[6...d6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.d4 exd4 9.Qxd4 0-0 10.Bf4 Bg4 11.Qd3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Nd7 13.Rad1 Bf6 14.b3 Re8 15.Rfe1 Qb8 16.Ne2 Qb4 17.Ng3 Qc3 18.Qg4 Ne5 19.Bxe5 Bxe5 20.f4 Bd4+ 21.Kh1 Nilsson,L (2531)-21.Qc4 (2541) Great Britain 2004 Telechess CBM 89 [Adriano, CHECK! #535]]
7.Bb3 d6 8.a3!? Not the most popular but strong, preparing a response to ... Na5 but allowing Keymer's concrete option in the game. **8...Bg4N**
[Instead 8...0-0 9.d3 transposes to many more games via the 5.d3 and 6. d3 Spanish move orders, with a topical theoretical position. h6 10.Be3 Re8 11.h3 Rb8 12.Nh2 Bf8 13.f4 exf4 14.Rxf4 Be6 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Ng4 Nh7 17.Qf3 Be7 18.Rf1 Bg5 19.Rf7 Rf8 20.Rxf8+ Qxf8 21.Qg3 Bxe3+ 22.Qxe3 Qe7 23.Ne2 Qg5 24.Nf4 Suyarov,M (2467)-Gharibyan, M (2472) Chess.com INT 2024 ½-½ (99)]
9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Nd4



11.Qd1 Nxb3 12.cxb3 0-0
[12...c5! preventing the d4 break seems like a safer option for Black - 13.d3 0-0 14.b4 h6 15.Qb3 Rc8 16.Be3 Qd7 17.Rfc1⇄ Petrosyan, M (2619)-Nogerbek,K (2483) Wch Rapid Samarkand 2023 (11) 1/2-1/2 The position is very stable and Black remains solid.]
13.d4 c6 14.Be3 a5 15.dxe5 dxe5



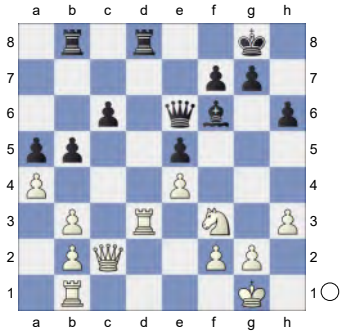
16.Qc2 Qd7 17.a4 Rfc8 18.Rac1 0.09/23
[18.axb5± 0.49/21 is more appropriate. cxb5 19.Qe2]
18...Qe6 19.Rfd1 h6 20.Nb1!?
[20.Ne2 Rab8 21.Ng3 is a more typical re-routing of this knight which is otherwise well-restricted on c3 by the c6-pawn.]
20...Rab8
(Diagram)



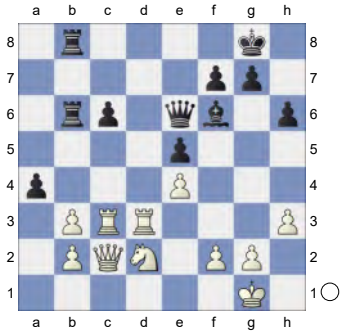
21.Nd2 Nh7

[21...Nd5!? is a tactical engine suggestion to exchange pieces, but few would consider this in a rapid game 22.exd5 cxd5 23.Qd3 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 d4=]

22.Nf3 Ng5 23.Bxg5 Bxg5 24.Rb1 Carlsen keeps the knight vs bishop imbalance to increase his chances of being able to play for a win. **24...Bf6 25.Rd3 Rd8**



26.Rc3 Rb6 27.axb5 Rxb5 28.Rd1 Rdb8 29.Rdd3 R5b6 30.Nd2 a4!?



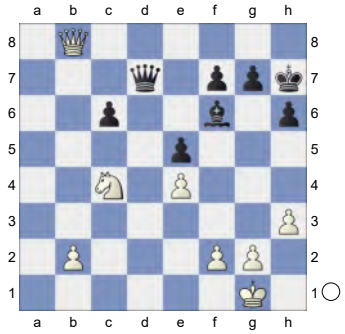
31.Nc4 Rxb3 32.Rxb3 axb3 33.Rxb3 Rxb3

[33...Rd8 34.Rd3 Rd4 keeping a pair of rooks may be a better approach for Black, as he has a nice outpost on d4 whilst White has nothing corresponding.]

34.Qxb3 Qd7 0.48/25

[34...g6= 0.11/23 deserves consideration.]

35.Qb8+± Kh7



36.Qd6 Against Qd1+ **36...Qxd6**

[36...Qb7 The game goes on, but the ending reached after Vincent trades queens seems exactly like one Carlsen grinds out time and time again, despite being objectively drawn.]

37.Nxd6 Endgame KB-KN **37...Bd8**

[37...Kg8 38.Nc8 Kf8! 39.Na7 Ke7! not allowing White to provoke ...c5, giving the pawn in exchange for extreme king activity 40.Nxc6+ Kd6 41.Nb4 Kc5!∞ White still certainly has good chances to grind here too though.]

38.Nc8!

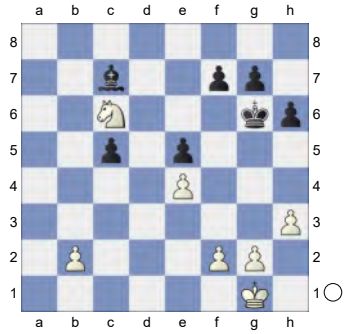
[Much weaker is 38.Nxf7?! Bc7=]

38...Kg6 39.Na7 0.38/27

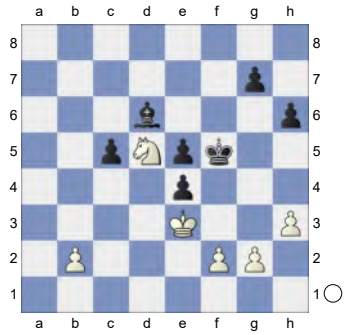
[⌓39.b4 0.70/25]

39...c5 40.Nc6 Bc7

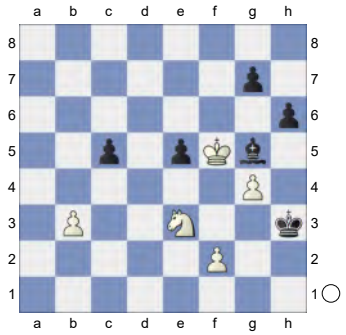
(Diagram)



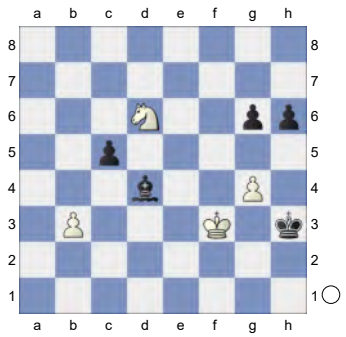
41.Ne7+ Kg5 42.Kf1 Bd6? 0.94/27
[42...g6 covering the f5 square is necessary 43.Ke2 Bb6 44.Nd5 Ba5! prevents White quickly activating the king due to 45.Kd3 Be1! , whilst provoking f3 will always allow Black a route in via Kh4-g3.]
[42...Bd8± 0.39/25 43.Nc6 Bc7]
43.Nd5?
[43.Nf5 Bf8 44.Ke2 g6 1.81/28 *(44...c4± 1.20/24)* 45.Ne3+- h5 46.Kd3+- is not so difficult - Black has no bishop activity as in the line above and White will soon achieve Kc4.]
43...f5! 44.Ke2 fxe4 45.Ke3 Kf5



46.g4+?! -0.52/26 The frustration on Carlsen's face was evident after this 'blunder', although the position remains drawn either way. However he still had chances to press instead of defend:
[46.b3! c4 47.g4+!? only now Kg5 48.bxc4 Kh4 49.Kxe4 f3 is the strong threat. Kxh3 50.Ne3 g6 51.Kd5∞ I would still not be confident at all of making a draw with the black pieces here.]
[46.b3± 0.68/30]
46...Kg5!∓ 47.Kxe4 Kh4 Now Carlsen has to defend with a pawn less to make a draw, but never experiences real problems. **48.Kf5 Kxh3 49.Ne3 Be7! 50.b3** -1.16/26
[⌓50.Nd5 -0.78/22 Bg5 51.f3]
50...Bg5 -0.01/27
[50...Bh4∓ -1.16/26 51.Nc4 e4]

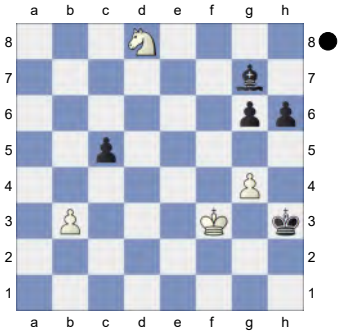


51.Nc4 -0.71/25
[51.Kxe5!? Bxe3 52.fxe3 Kxg4 aiming for ...h5. 53.e4! h5 Strongly threatening ...h4. 54.Kd6 h4 Hoping for ...h3. *(54...g5!?)* 55.e5 h3 And now ...h2 would win. 56.e6 h2 57.e7 h1Q (-> ...Qh5) 58.e8Q= also holds, but there is no need to disturb the current equilibrium.]
[51.Kxe5= -0.01/27 Bxe3 52.fxe3 Kxg4 53.e4]
51...e4 52.Nd6 e3 53.fxe3 Bxe3 54.Ke4 Bd4 55.Kf3 g6

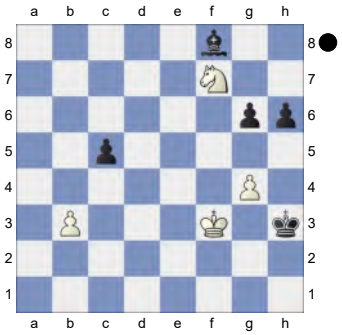


56.Nf7 Bg7! 57.Nd8 -1.12/29

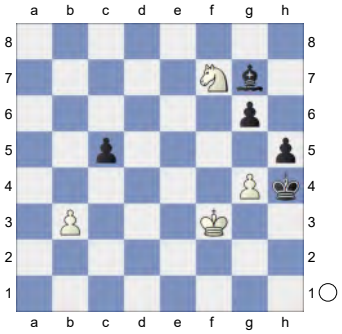
[57.Nd6!∓ -0.46/29]



57...Bf8!∓ 58.Nf7

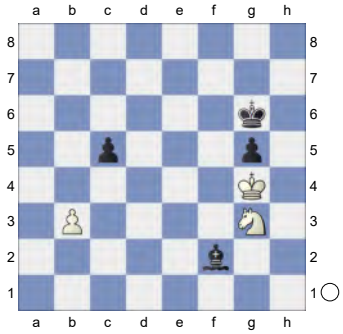


Kh4! 59.Kf4 Bg7 -0.74/29 Inhibits Nh8.
[⌓59...h5 -1.17/31 60.gxh5 Kxh5]
60.Kf3 h5

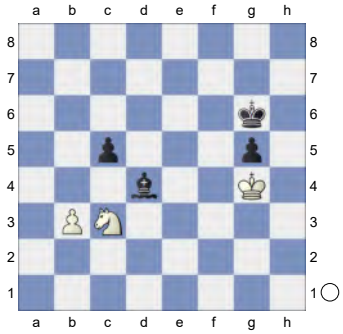


61.gxh5 Kxh5
[Of course not 61...gxh5 62.Nd8=]
62.Nd6 -1.53/28
[⌓62.Nd8 -0.73/30]
62...Bd4 -0.78/28
[Black should play 62...Bf8 -1.53/28 63.Nf7 g5]
63.Ne4 g5 -0.01/29
[63...Kh4∓ -0.74/31 Threatening ...g5. 64.Kf4 Bg1]

64.Ng3+= The position is equal.
64...Kg6 65.Kg4 Bf2



66.Ne4 Be3 67.Nc3 Bd4 68.Ne4 Be3 69.Nc3 Bd4

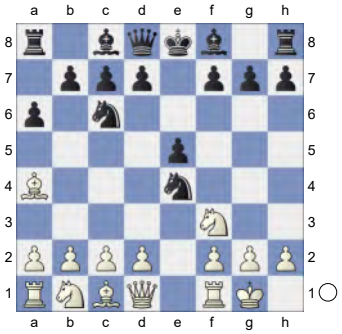


Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

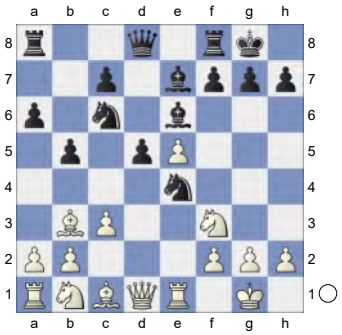
46 **C83**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2830**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2794**
CCT Final KO 2023 rapid (1.25) 14.12.23
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
C83: Partie espagnole (défense ouverte, variante principale)
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

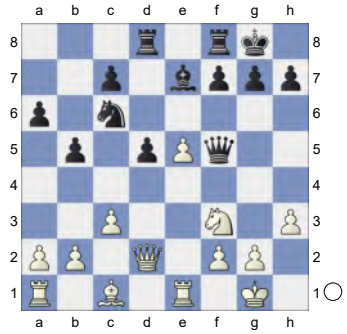
(Diagram)



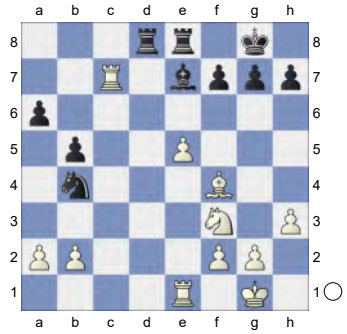
6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Bb3 d5 9.dxe5 Be6 10.c3 0-0



11.h3 11.Nd4 is becoming the main line. 11.Sd4 wird zur Hauptvariante. **11...Qd7**
[11...b4 12.Ba4 Na5 13.Nd4 bxc3 14.Nxc3 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Rb8 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Qg4 Rb6 18.Be3 c5 19.Rab1 Nc4 20.Rxb6 Qxb6 21.Bc1 Kh8 22.Bc2 g6 23.Bh6 Rg8 24.Qf3 Qb2 25.Qf7 Qxc2 26.Qxe7 Kamsky,G (2665)-Wafa,H (2065) Chess.com INT 2023 1-0]
12.Bc2N
[Vorgänger: 12.Nbd2 Nc5 13.Bc2 d4 14.cxd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Qxd4 16.Qh5 Nd3 *(16...g6 17.Qe2 Rad8 18.Nf3 Qc4* Chapter13-D421 Bc2 The OOpen Sanish [Mikhalevski Viktor] *)* 17.Bxd3 Qxd3 18.Ne4 Rad8 1-0 Bologan,V (2682)-Fressinet,L (2624) Corsica Masters rap 09th rapid 2005 (1.4) 19.Bf4 c5 20.Re3 Qd4 21.Rae1 Bd5 22.Bg5 Bxg5 23.Nxg5 h6 24.Rg3 hxg5 25.Qxg5 g6 26.Rg4 Be6 27.Rxd4 Rxd4 28.Qe7 c4 29.Qc5 Rfd8 30.f3 Rd2 31.Qe7 R8d4 32.Kh2 Rxb2 33.a3 Rdd2 Bologan,V-Fressinet,L Corte 2005 [LesEchecs.com] 1-0 (61)]
12...Rad8 0.24/19
[⌓12...f5 -0.12/20]
13.Nbd2= White has an edge. **13...Nxd2**
14.Qxd2 Bf5 15.Bxf5 Qxf5

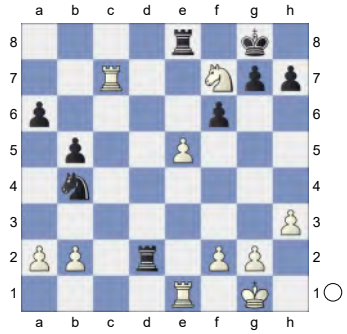


16.Qf4 Qxf4 17.Bxf4 d4 0.64/20
[⌓17...h6 0.33/18]
18.Rac1± dxc3 0.78/21
[18...d3± 0.47/19]
19.Rxc3± Nb4 And now ...Nd5 would win. **20.Rxc7 Rfe8**

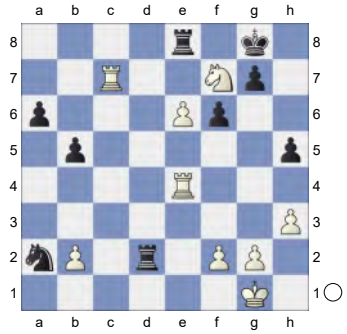


21.Bg5 0.58/21
[21.e6?! Nd5=]
[White should try 21.Bd2± 1.02/20]
21...Bxg5± 22.Nxg5 f6 0.96/22
[22...Nd3± 0.58/23 was preferrable. 23.e6 fxe6]
23.Nf7± &Bianco is more active.
23...Rd2 1.80/21
[23...Rd5± 1.09/22]

(Diagram)

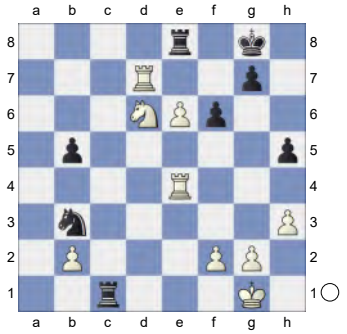


24.e6!+- Hoping for Re4. **24...h5 25.Re4 Nxa2** 3.16/20
[⌓25...Nc2 1.71/22]

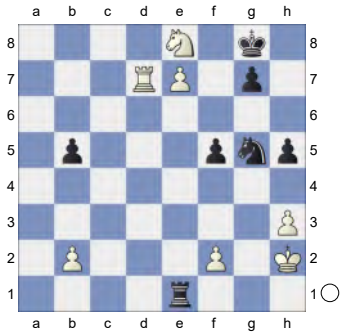


26.Rc6 Nd6 is the strong threat.
26...Rd5 3.95/24
[26...f5 2.60/21 might work better. 27.Rh4 g6]
27.Rxa6 Nc1 4.99/24
[⌓27...f5 3.23/22]
28.Rd6 Rc5 29.Rd7 Nb3 30.Nd6 Rc1+? 5.77/23
[30...Nd2 3.56/24 keeps fighting. 31.g4 *(31.Nxe8 Rc1+ 32.Re1 Rxe1+ 33.Kh2 Nf1+ 34.Kh1 Nd2+ 35.Kh2 Nf1+ 36.Kh1 Nd2+ 37.Kh2=)* 31...Nxe4 32.Nxe8 Re5 33.Nxg7 *(33.Rxg7+ Kf8±)* 33...Nc5]

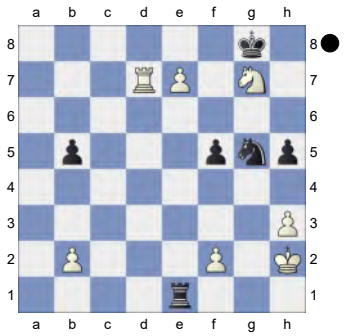
(Diagram)



31.Kh2 White is clearly winning.
31...Nd2 32.g4
[Stronger than 32.Nxe8 Nf1+ 33.Kg1 Nd2+ 34.Kh2 Nf1+ 35.Kh1 Nd2+ 36.Kh2= *(36.Re1 Rxe1+ 37.Kh2 Nf1+ 38.Kh1 Nd2+ 39.Kh2 Nf1+ 40.Kh1 Nd2+=)*]
32...Nxe4 33.Nxe8 Re1 34.e7 f5 35.g5 g6 would kill now. **35...Nxg5**



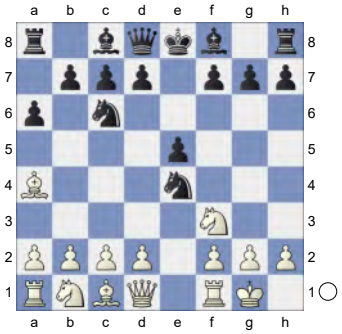
36.Nxg7!



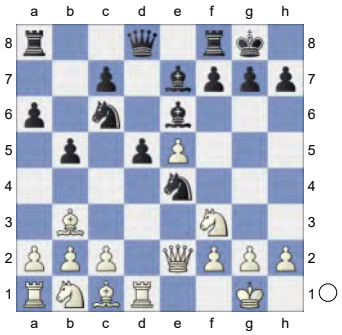
Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.46
1-0

47 **C83**
□ **Volokitin,Andrei** **2648**
■ **Bluebaum,Matthias** **2646**
POL-chT Ekstraliga (4.13) 10.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

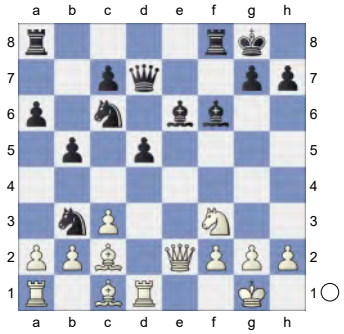
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



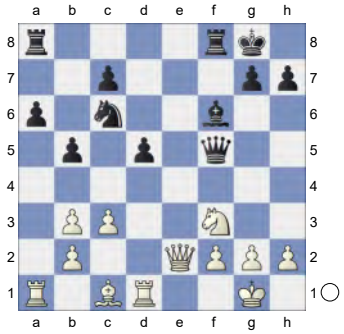
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Qe2 Be7 10.Rd1 0-0



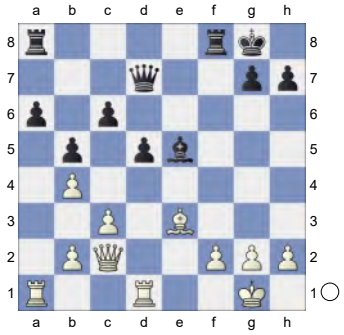
11.c3 Qd7 11...Qd7 scores better than 11...Nc5. 11...Dd7 punktet besser als 11...Sc5. **12.Nbd2** 12.Bc2 is not played anymore. 12.Lc2 wird inzwischen seltener gespielt. **12...Nc5 13.Bc2 f6 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Nb3 Nxb3N**
[15...Na4 16.Nfd4 *(16.Rb1 Bf5 17.Be3 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Ne5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5* Chapter7-N,N [Mikhalevski Viktor] *)* 16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Bf7 18.Bf5 Qd6 19.Be3 Rfe8 20.Qc2 g6 21.Bg4 c5 22.Ne2 Rad8 Chapter-Games Game 4]



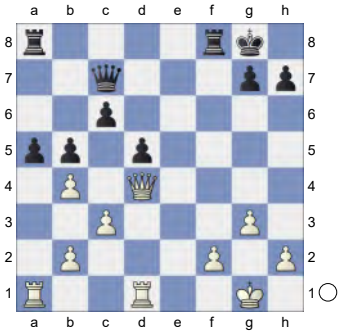
White is slightly better. **16.axb3 Bf5 17.Be3N**
[17.Bxf5 Qxf5



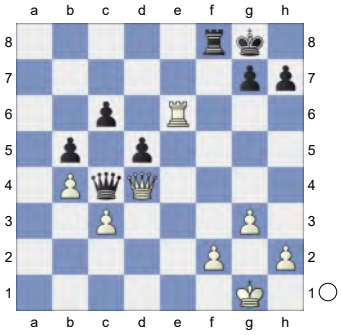
18.Qd3 0.38/25 *(⌓18.Bf4!* 0.69/21 *)* 18...Qxd3± 19.Rxd3 Rfd8 20.Bg5 Kf7 0.76/20 *(20...Bxg5±* 0.42/20 *21.Nxg5 Rd6)* 21.Rad1± Ne7 22.Bxf6 Kxf6 23.Nd4 1-0 Blazek,M (2116)-Mertens,T (1969) Piestany Pressburg op 2006 (4)]
17...Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Ne5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.b4 c6



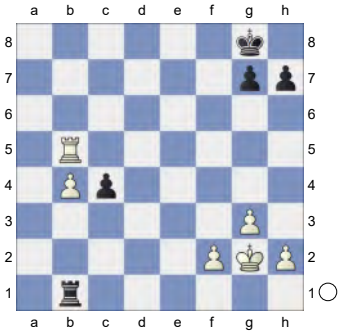
21.Bc5 Bd6 22.Bd4 Qc7 23.g3 Be5 24.Qd3 Bxd4 25.Qxd4 a5
(Diagram)



26.Rxa5 Rxa5 27.bxa5 Qxa5±
E n d g a m e K Q R - K Q R **28.Re1**
Threatens to win with Re7. **28...Qa4**
29.b4 Qa2 30.Re6
[30.Re7 feels hotter. Rf6 31.Re8+ Kf7 32.Re5]
30...Qc4

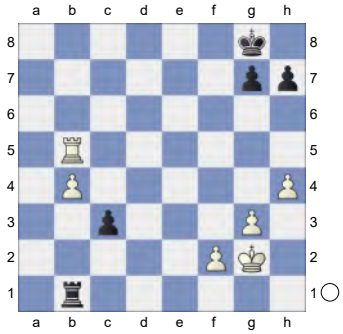


31.Qxc4 0.62/24 &Bianco is more active.
[31.Qe5± 0.94/21]
31...dxc4 32.Rxc6± KR-KR **32...Rf3 33.Rc5 Rxc3 34.Rxb5 Rc1+ 35.Kg2 Rb1**

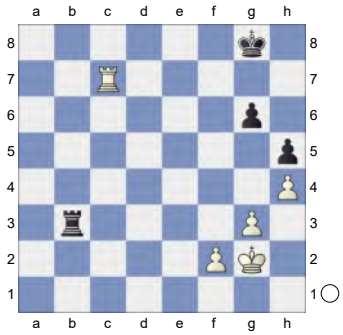


36.h4 c3

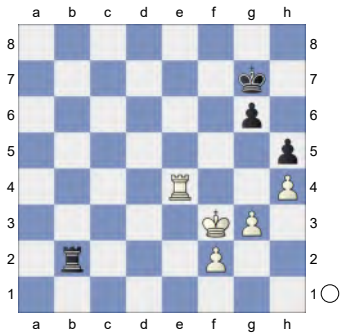
(Diagram)



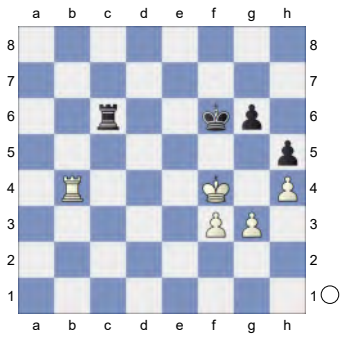
And now ...c2 would win. **37.Rc5 Rxb4 38.Rxc3 h5 39.Rc5 g6 40.Rc7 Rb3**



41.Re7 Kf8 42.Re3 Rb2 43.Kf3 Kg7 44.Re2 Rb4 45.Re4 Rb2

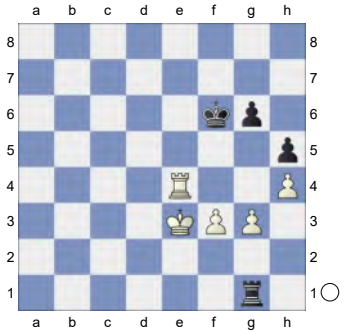


46.Rd4 Ra2 47.Ke3 Kf6 48.f3 Ra3+ 49.Kf4 Ra6 50.Rb4 Rc6

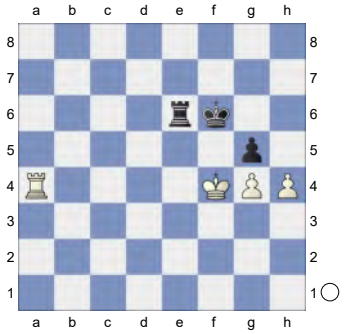


51.Ke4 Re6+ 52.Kd3 Re1 53.Rf4+

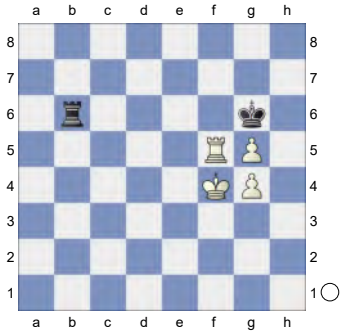
Kg7! 54.Re4 Rg1 55.Ke3 Kf6



56.Ra4 Rb1
[56...Rxg3 57.Kf2 Rh3 58.Kg2 Rxh4 59.Rxh4+-]
57.Ke4 Re1+ 58.Kf4 Re6 59.g4 hxg4 60.fxg4 g5+!

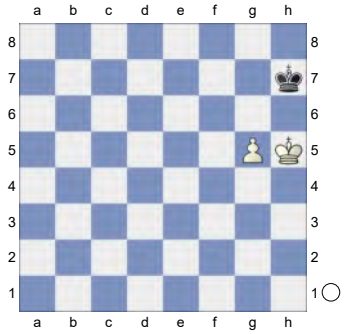


The position is equal. **61.hxg5+ Kg6 62.Ra8 Rb6 63.Rg8+ Kh7 64.Rf8 Kg7 65.Rf5 Kg6**

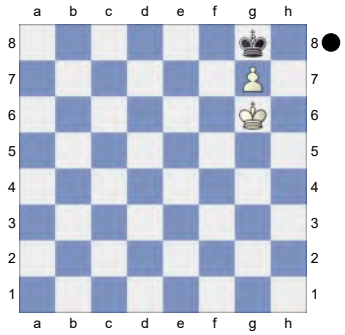


66.Rf6+ Rxf6+ 67.gxf6 Kxf6= KP-K **68.g5+ Kg6 69.Kg4 Kg7 70.Kh5 Kh7**

(Diagram)



71.g6+ Kg7 72.Kg5 Kg8 73.Kh6
Threatening mate with g7. **73...Kh8 74.g7+ Kg8 75.Kg6**

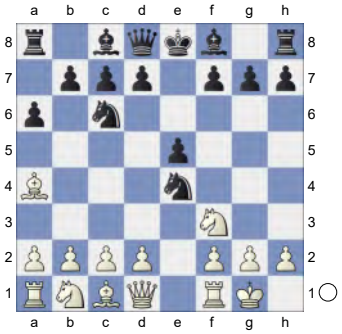


Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

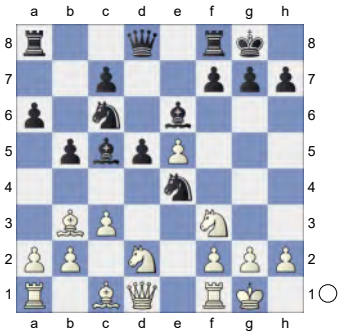
48 **C82**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2805**
■ **Hakobyan,Aram** **2617**
Chess.com Classic Div 2 W rapid (1.3)
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
Haba,P: '61/335 ' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0



11.Bc2 Bf5 12.Nb3 Bb6

[12...Bg6 13.Nfd4 Bxd4 14.cxd4 a5 15.Be3 a4 16.Nc1 a3 17.b3 f6 18.Nd3 Re8 19.f3 fxe5 20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.fxe4 Nd7 22.e5 Bxc2 23.Qxc2 Nf8 24.Rf3 Qd7 25.Raf1 Ng6 26.Rc1 Rec8 27.Qc6 Aseev,K (2545)-Haba,P (2475) Deutschland 61/335 1994 CI1-130 [Haba,Petr] 1-0 (65)]

13.Nbd4N

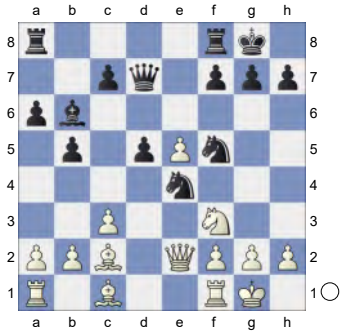
[13.Nfd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Be6 15.f3 Ng5 16.f4 Ne4 17.f5 Bc8 18.f6 g6 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Qd2 Kh8 21.Qh6 Rg8 22.Bg5 Qf8 23.Qh4 h5 24.Rf4 Bb7 25.g4 Kh7 26.gxh5 Rh8 27.hxg6+ Kxg6 Brenneur,R (1947)-Bedouin,X (2342) Sautron 2006 EXT 2007 [RR] 0-1 (45)]

[13.a4 Rb8 14.Nfd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bxd4 16.cxd4 Bg6 17.axb5 axb5 18.Ra7 c6 19.f3 Ng5 20.Ra6 Rc8 21.Be3 Ne6 22.f4 Bxc2 23.Qxc2 Qd7 24.f5 Nd8 25.Qf2 Kh8 26.Qh4 Qb7 27.f6 g6 Ruy Lopez-N,N [Lasker, Em.] (31) 28.Qh6 Ne6 29.Ra3 Rg8 30.Bd2 Nf8 31.Bb4 Ruy Lopez [Lasker, Em.] (31)]

13...Ne7 0.77/18

[13...Nxd4= 0.00/18 14.Nxd4 Bd7]

14.Nxf5± Nxf5 White is better. **15.Qe2 Qd7**



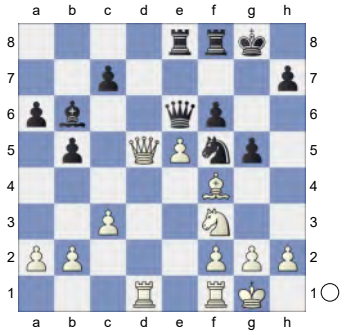
16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Qxe4 Rae8 18.Bf4 f6 19.Rad1 0.42/21

[Better is 19.Rfe1± 1.09/19]

19...Qe6± 20.Qd5 -0.11/23

[20.Qc2± 0.34/18]

20...g5=



21.Bg3 g4 0.26/23

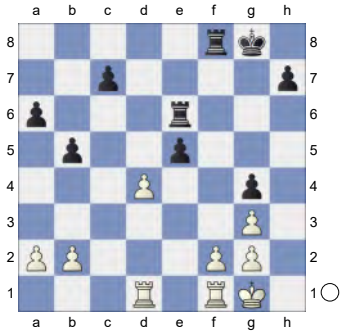
[21...Qxd5 -0.13/22 was preferrable. 22.Rxd5 g4]

22.Qxe6+

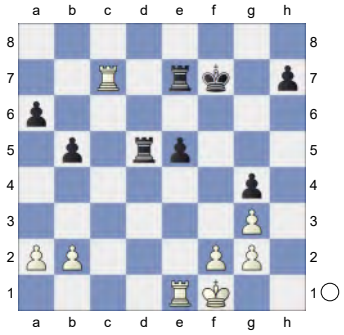
[22.Nh4 is interesting. Nxg3 23.Qxe6+ Rxe6 24.hxg3 fxe5 25.Rde1]

22...Rxe6 23.Nd4 Bxd4 24.cxd4 Nxg3 25.hxg3 fxe5

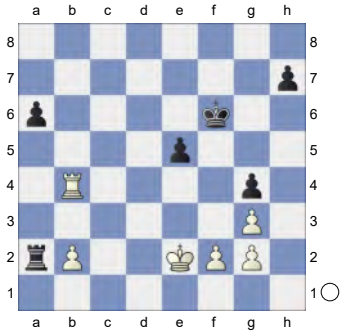
(Diagram)



Endgame KRR-KRR **26.Rfe1 Rfe8** 0.72/21
[26...Rd8± 0.41/21 is superior.]
27.d5 Rd6 28.Kf1 0.09/20
[28.f4± 0.47/18]
28...Kf7 The position is equal. **29.Rc1 Rxd5 30.Rxc7+ Re7**

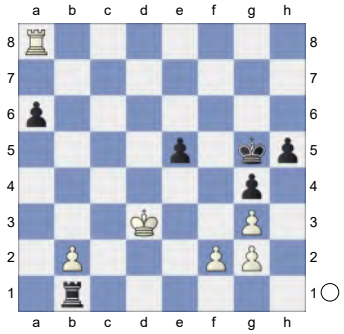


31.Rxe7+ Kxe7 KR-KR **32.Ke2 b4 33.Rc1 Ra5 34.Rc4 Rxa2 35.Rxb4 Kf6**

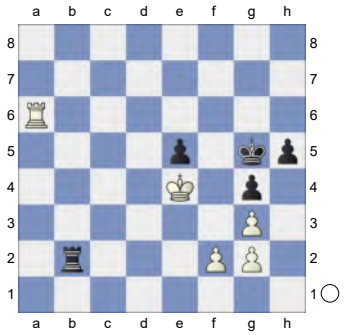


36.Kd3 h5 37.Rb6+ Kf5 38.Rb8 Ra1 39.Rf8+ Kg5 40.Ra8 Rb1

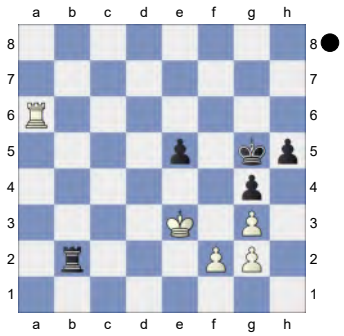
(Diagram)



41.Rxa6 Rxb2 42.Ke3 Rb3+ 43.Ke4 Rb2 44.Ke3 Inhibits Re2+. **44...Rb3+ 45.Ke4 Rb2**



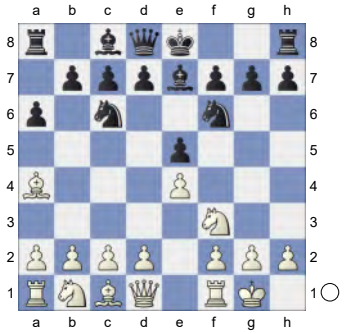
46.Ke3



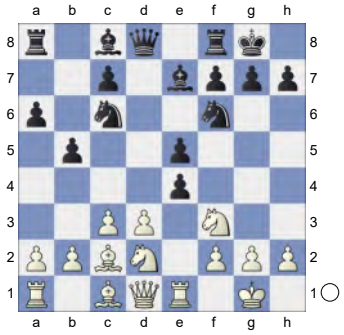
Inhibits Re2+.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

49 **C84**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2830**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2727**
CCT Final playoff rapid (2.1) 09.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

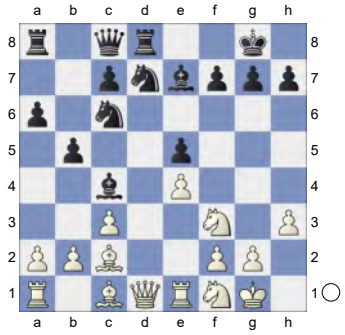
C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
Slavisa Brenjo: 'Current Reputation: Playable for both sides' **1.e4** 1 **e5** 1 **2.Nf3** 2 **Nc6** 2 **3.Bb5** 2 **a6** 1 **4.Ba4** 3 **Nf6** 1 **5.0-0** 13 **Be7** 5



6.d3 4 **d6** 3 **7.c3** 3 **0-0** 3 **8.Re1** 3 **b5** 1 **9.Bc2** 4 **d5** 3 **10.Nbd2** 6 **dxe4** 1

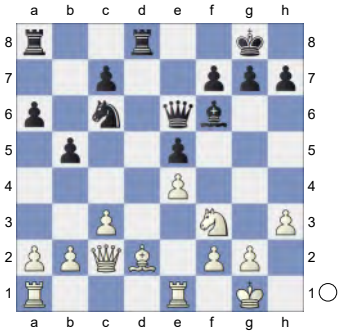


11.dxe4 2 **Be6** 1 **12.Qe2** 1:12
[12.h3 Nd7 13.Nf1 Nc5 14.Ne3 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 f6 16.Nd5 Bd6 17.Be3 Nb7 18.b4 Ne7 19.a4 c6 20.Nb6 Rab8 21.Nd2 c5 22.axb5 axb5 23.c4 cxb4 24.cxb5 Bc5 25.Bb3 Bxb3 26.Nxb3 Bxe3 Molina,R (2823)-C 06/32 (2807) corr 2011 CBM 32 [M.Botvinnik] ½-½ (56) 27.fxe3 Na5 28.Rxa5 Rxb6 29.Rd7 Nc8 30.Nc5 h5 31.Rd3 Re8 32.Na4 Rb8 33.Rb3 Nb6 34.Rxb4 Rec8 35.Nxb6 Rxb6 36.Ra6 Rc1+ 37.Kf2 Rc2+ 38.Kg3 Rxa6 39.bxa6 Ra2 40.Rb6 Kf7 41.Rb7+ Kg6 Carlsen,M (2862)-Tari,A (2625) Wijk aan Zee 2021 CBM 201 [Grigoriants, Sergey] ½-½ (56)]
12...Qc8 4 **13.h3N** 29
[13.a4 Qb7 14.b4 Rfd8 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Rxa8 17.Bd3 Rb8 18.Nb1 Ne8 19.Ng5 Nd8 20.Be3 Bd7 Lopez,R-Closed Defense,W Linz 2014 [Slavisa Brenjo]]
[13.Ng5 Bg4 14.Ngf3 Rb8 15.Nf1 h6 16.Ne3 Be6 17.a4 Rd8 18.axb5 axb5 19.h3 Bf8 20.g4 b4 21.Nf5 bxc3 22.bxc3 Bb3 23.Bxb3 Rxb3 24.Qc4 Qe6 25.Ra4 Rb1 26.Kg2 Rdb8 27.g5 hxg5 Matinian,N (2407)-Smirnov,P (2545) chess.com INT 2023 0-1 (44)]
13...Nd7 1:16 **14.Nf1** 35 **Bc4** 48 **15.Qd1** 9 **Rd8** 33

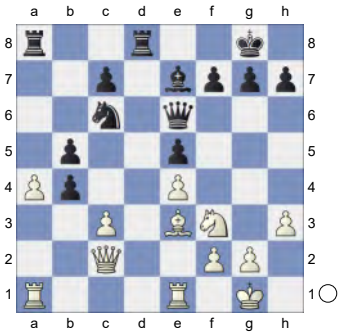


16.Ne3 27 **Nf6** 0.52/19 49
[16...Nc5= 0.20/19 17.Nd5 Qe6]
17.Bd2± 58 **Bd3** 18 **18.Nd5** 1:01 **Bxc2** 34 **19.Nxf6+** 2 **Bxf6** 4 **20.Qxc2** 2 **Qe6** 41

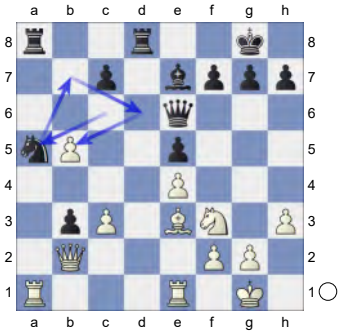
(Diagram)



21.Be3 28 **Be7** 9 **22.b4** 2:18 **a5** 1:11 **23.a4** 1:00 **axb4** 1:57



And now ...b3 would win. **24.axb5** 1 **b3** 2 **25.Qb2** 6 **Na5** 4

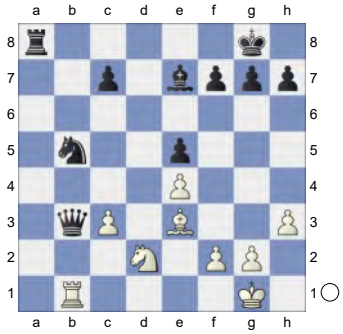


26.Ra4 2 **Nb7** 4 **27.Rxa8** 2:23 **Rxa8** 1 **28.Nd2** 2 **Nd6** 1:25 **29.Rb1** 1:17

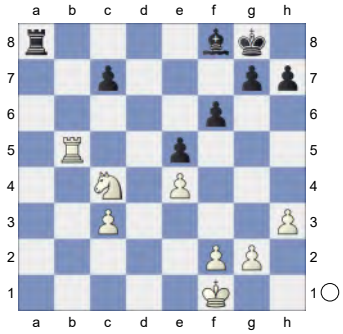
[29.Nxb3 keeps more tension. Nxe4 30.c4 Qxc4 White should prevent ... Bd6. 31.Qxe5 Bd6 32.Qd4]

29...Nxb5 44 **30.Qxb3** 9 **Qxb3** 6

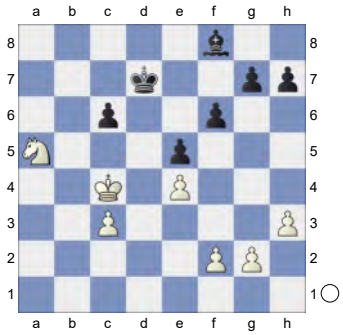
(Diagram)



31.Rxb3 2 **Nd6** 9 **32.Kf1** 17 **f6** 8 **33.Bc5** 12 **Nc4** 1:19 **34.Nxc4** 3 **Bxc5=** 1 Endgame KRB-KRN **35.Rb5** 26 **Bf8** 1:15

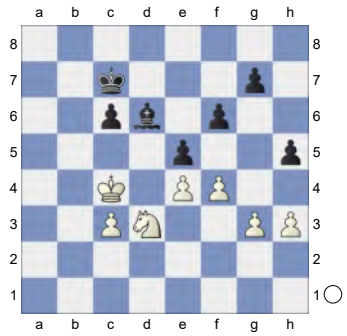


36.Ra5 16 **Rxa5** 9 **37.Nxa5** 2 KB-KN **37...Kf7** 1 **38.Ke2** 8 **Ke6** 1 **39.Kd3** 2 **Kd7** 0 **40.Kc4** 4 **c6!** 1

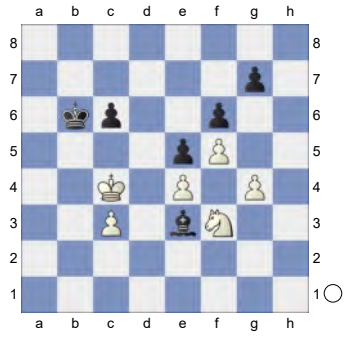


41.Nb7 6 **Ba3** 29 **42.Nc5+** 10 **Kd6** 1 **43.Nd3** 4 **h5** 16 **44.g3** 21 **Kc7** 3 **45.f4** 30 **Bd6** 49

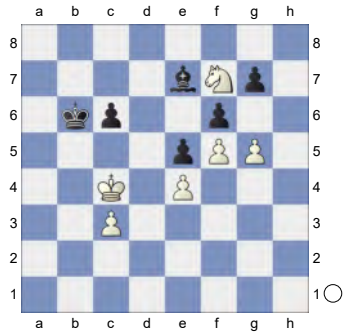
(Diagram)



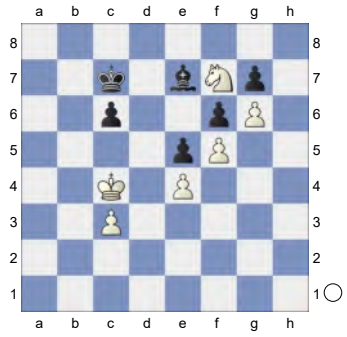
46.f5 2 **Kb6** 12 Against Nc5 **47.Ne1** 23 **Bc5** 7 **48.Nf3** 2 **Bf2** 10 **49.g4** 1 **hxg4** 1 **50.hxg4** 2 **Be3** 23



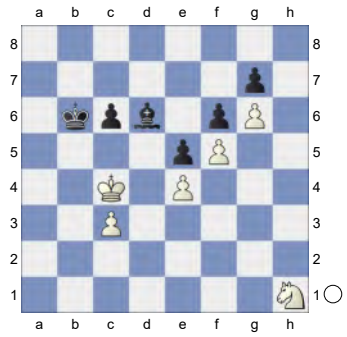
51.Nh4 4 **Bc5** 2 **52.Ng6** 13 **Bd6** 1 **53.Nh8** 9 **Be7** 7 **54.Nf7** 4 **Kc7** 18 **55.g5** 5 **Kb6** 22



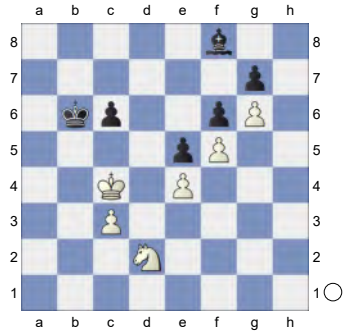
56.g6 3 **Kc7** 2



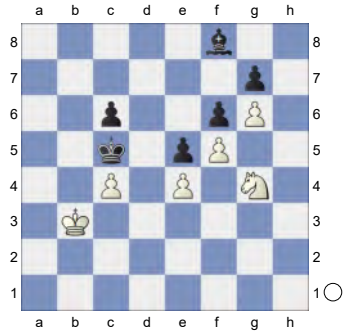
The position is equal. **57.Nh6!** 5 **Kb6** 1 **58.Ng4** 4 **Bf8** 6 **59.Nf2** 15 **Bc5** 1 **60.Nh1** 4 **Bd6** 5



61.Ng3 2 **Bf8** 1 **62.Ne2** 11 **Ba3** 4 **63.Ng1** 2 **Bc5** 2 **64.Nf3** 1 **Be7** 3 **65.Nd2** 3 **Bf8** 3

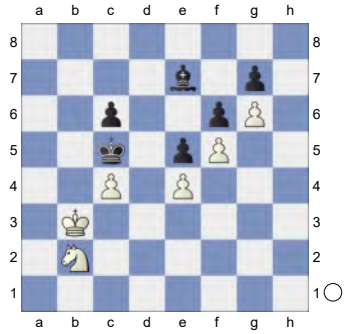


66.Kb3 1 **Kb5** 5 **67.Nf3** 8 **Be7** 2 **68.Nh2** 9 **Bc5** 4 **69.Ng4** 2 **Bf8** 4 **70.c4+** 5 **Kc5** 2

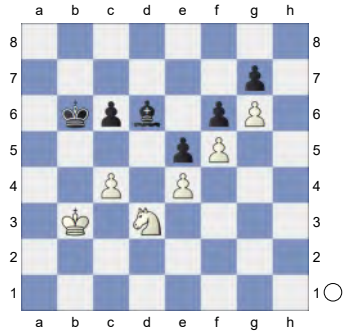


...Kd4 is the strong threat. **71.Kc3!** 1 **Be7** 5 **72.Nf2** 5 **Kb6** 1 **73.Nd3** 1 **Bd6** 2 **74.Kb3** 2 **Be7** 1 **75.Nb2** 3 **Kc5** 3

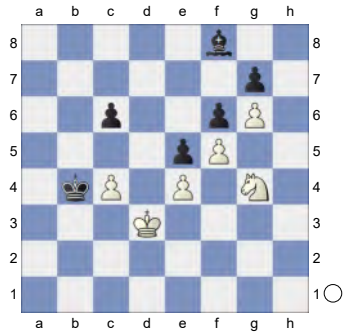
(Diagram)



White must now prevent ...Kd4. **76.Kc3** 2 **Kb6** 1 **77.Na4+** 1 **Ka5** 3 **78.Kb3** 1 **Bf8** 10 **79.Nb2!** 7 **Kb6** 1 **80.Nd3** 2 **Bd6** 2

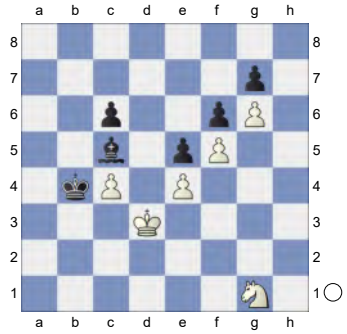


81.Nf2 6 **Kc5** 3 Strongly threatening ... Kd4. **82.Kc3** 1 **Kb6** 4 **83.Ng4** 3 **Bf8** 2 **84.Kd2** 3 **Kc5** 1 **85.Kd3** 1 **Kb4** 2

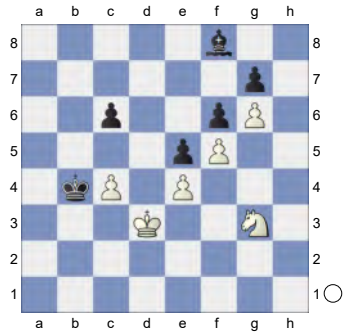


86.Ne3 5 **Bc5** 7 (-> ...Bxe3) **87.Nc2+** 4 **Kb3** 1 **88.Ne1** 1 **Kb4** 0 **89.Nf3** 2 **Be7** 4 **90.Ng1** 9 **Bc5** 1

(Diagram)



91.Ne2 2 **Be7** 4 **92.Ng3** 2 **Bf8** 2 **93.Nh5** 3 **Kb3** 2 **94.Ng3** 3 **Kb4** 0

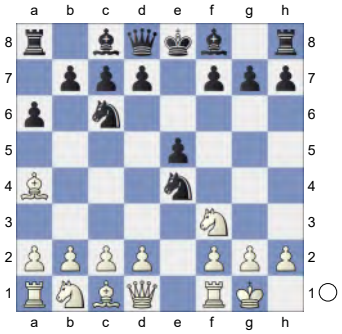


Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

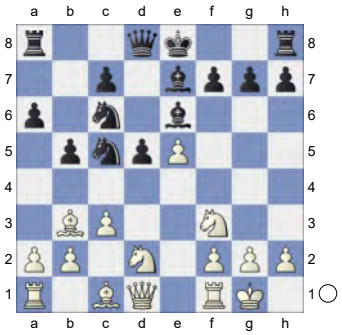
50 **C83**
☐ **Berserk Test** **2807**
■ **Fantacticeman** **2922**
Rapid 05.11.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
C83: Partie espagnole (défense ouverte, variante principale)
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

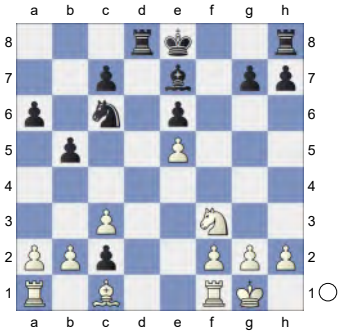
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 Nc5

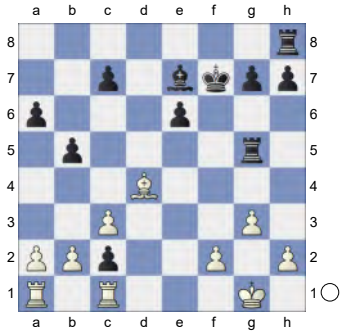


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Nxc5
[13.Bb1 seems wilder. Nxb3 14.axb3 Bf5 15.Be3]
13...dxc2 14.Qxd8+ Rxd8
[Resist 14...Bxd8 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Be3±]
15.Nxe6 fxe6

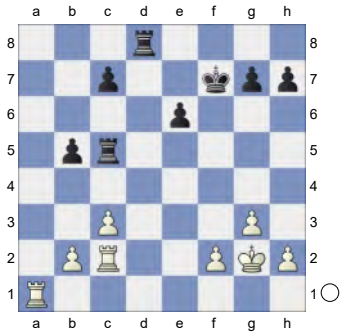


16.Be3 Against Bc5 **16...Rd5 17.Rfc1 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Rxe5 19.Bd4 Rg5 20.g3 Kf7**

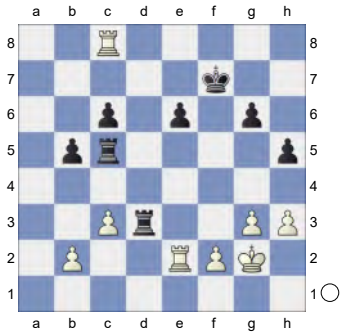
(Diagram)



21.a4 Rd5 22.axb5! axb5 23.Rxc2 Rhd8 24.Kg2 Bc5N
[24...R8d7 25.Be3 Bc5 26.Bxc5 Rxc5 27.Ra5 c6 28.Re2 Rcd5 29.Ra6 R7d6 30.Ra7+ Rd7 31.Ra6 R7d6 32.Rb6 Kf6 33.b3 g5 34.b4 h5 35.h3 Rf5 36.Rb8 Kg7 37.Re8 Kf7 38.Rh8 Kg6 39.Rc8 Benjamin,J (2554)-Kaidanov,G (2611) San Diego 2004 LesEchecs [LesEchecs.com] ½-½ (43)]
25.Bxc5 Rxc5=

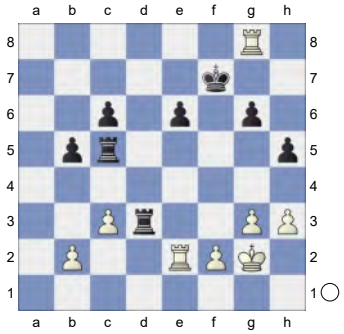


Endgame KRR-KRR **26.Re2 h5 27.Ra6 Rd6 28.Ra8 g6 29.Rc8 Rd3 30.h3 c6**

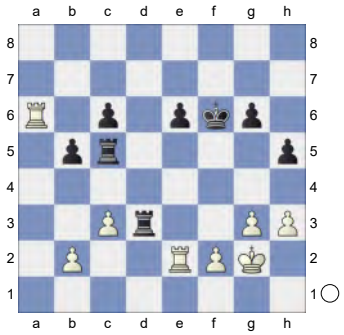


31.Rc7+ Kf6 32.Rc8 Ke7 33.Rc7+

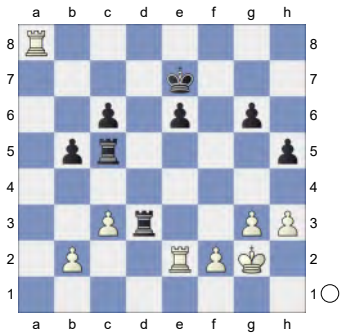
Rd7 34.Rc8 Rd3 35.Rg8 Kf7



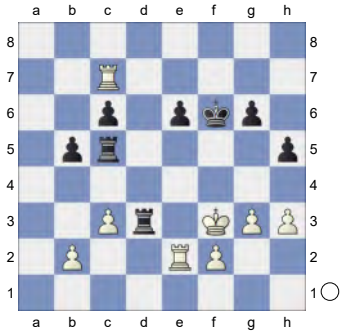
36.Rh8 Rcd5 37.Rc8 Rc5 38.Rb8 Rcd5 39.Rb6 Rc5 40.Ra6 Kf6



41.Ra8 Ke7 42.Ra7+ Rd7 43.Ra6 Rd6 44.Ra7+ Rd7 45.Ra8 Rd3



46.Rg8 Kf7 47.Rh8 Ke7 48.Rh7+ Kf6 49.Rc7 Rd8 50.Kf3 Rd3+



51.Kg2

[51.Ke4 feels hotter. Rd1 52.h4 Rd6 53.Ke3]

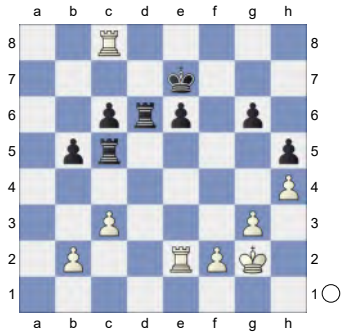
51...Rd8 52.h4 Rd6 The position is equal. **53.Rc8 Ke7 54.Kf3 Rf5+**

[54...Rd3+ with more complications. 55.Kf4 Kf6 56.Ke4 Rd1]

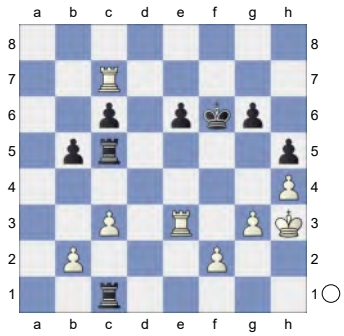
55.Kg2

[55.Ke4 looks sharper. Rc5 56.Rc2 Rd1 57.Rg8]

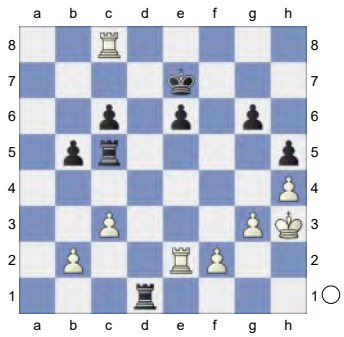
55...Rc5!



56.Kg1 Rd1+ 57.Kh2 Kf7 58.Kh3 Ke7 59.Re3 Rc1 60.Rc7+ Kf6!



61.Rc8 Ke7 Inhibits Re8+. **62.Re2 Rd1 63.Rc7+ Rd7 64.Rc8 Rd1**

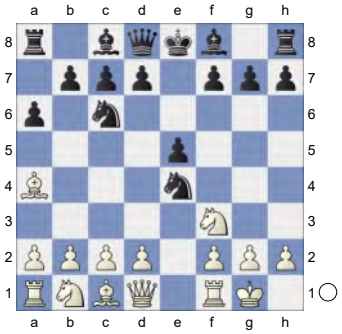


Weighted Error Value: White=0.04

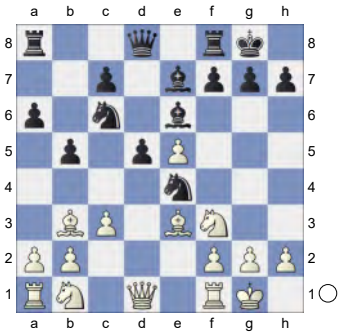
(flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

51 **C83**
□ **Stockfish16** **2798**
■ **Reinforcementtrial** **2948**
Rapid 30.10.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
RR: 'Inf 86/(350)' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

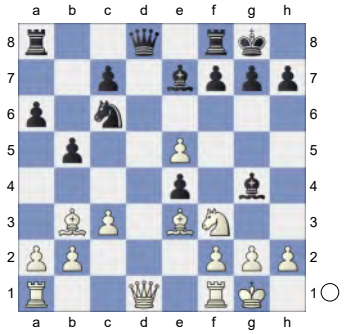


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Be3 0-0

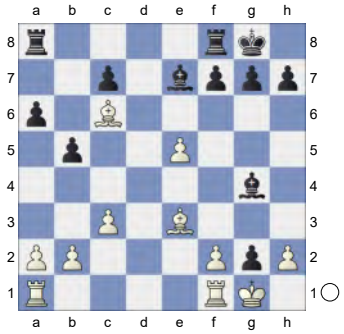


11.Nbd2 Bg4 12.Nxe4 dxe4

(Diagram)



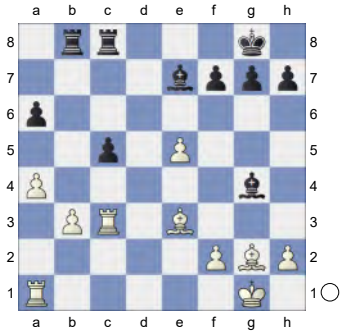
13.Qd5 Qxd5
[13...exf3 seems wilder. 14.Qxc6 fxg2 15.Rfe1 Qd7]
14.Bxd5 exf3 15.Bxc6 fxg2



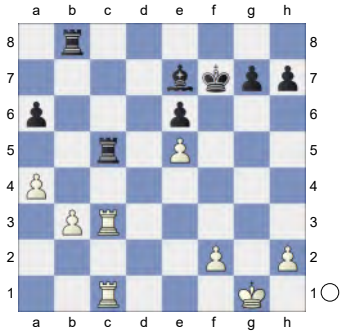
16.Rfc1 Rab8! 17.a4 b4! The position is equal.
[17...bxa4 18.Rxa4 Be6 19.b4 Bc4 20.Bxg2 f6 21.Ra5 fxe5 22.Bd5+ Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Rf6 24.Rxe5 Rg6+ 25.Kf1 Bd6 26.Ra5 Bxh2 27.Rca1 Rg1+ 28.Ke2 Rxa1 29.Rxa1 Be5 30.Rxa6 Bxc3 31.Rc6 Bxb4 32.Rxc7 Sadvakasov,D (2523)-Kortschnoj,V (2642) Astana 2003 CBM 93 [Postny, Evgeny] ½-½ (44)]
18.Bxg2 c5 19.b3N
[19.Bf1 Bc8 20.a5 h6 21.Bc4 Bb7 22.Rd1 Rfd8 23.cxb4 cxb4 24.Bb6 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Bc8 26.f3 Kf8 27.Kf2 Ke8 28.Ke3 Bb7 29.f4 Rc8 30.b3 g6 31.Rf1 f5 32.Kd4 Bh4 33.Bc5 Bg2 Zalkind,K (2474)-lf1 (2342) 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bg5 2023 TD 94\02 [John Watson] 1-0 (47) 34.Bxa6 Rd8+ 35.Bd6 Bxf1 36.Bxf1 g5

37.Kd5 gxf4 38.a6 Be7 39.Be2 Rc8 40.Ke6 Bxd6 41.Kxd6 Ra8 42.e6 Ra7 43.Bb5+ Kd8 44.Bc6 f3 45.Bb7 Ke8 46.e7 Kf7 47.Kd7 1-0 (47) Pijpers,A (2474)-Kamalidenova,M (2342) La Nucia 2023]
[19.cxb4 Rxb4 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 Rxb2 22.Rc7 Rd8 ½-½ (22) Shkapenko,P (2344)-Two Knights Attack,A (2276) Groningen 2023 Schlechter-Tarrasch [John Watson]]

19...bxc3 20.Rxc3 Rfc8

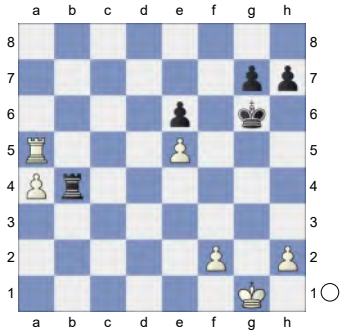


21.Bf1 Rc6 22.Bc4 Be6 23.Bxe6 fxe6 24.Rac1 Kf7 25.Bxc5 Rxc5

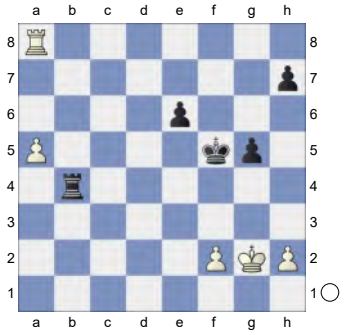


26.Rxc5 Bxc5 27.Rxc5 Rxb3= Endgame KR-KR **28.Rc6 a5 29.Rc5 Kg6 30.Rxa5 Rb4**

(Diagram)



31.Ra6 Kf5 32.Ra7 g5 33.Ra8 Kxe5 34.Kg2 Kf6 35.a5 Kf5

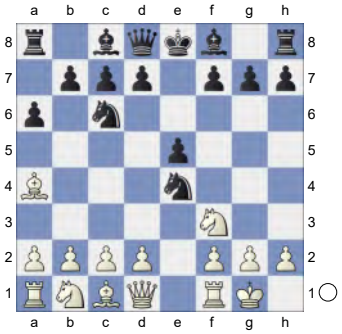


An even fight not without its subleties.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

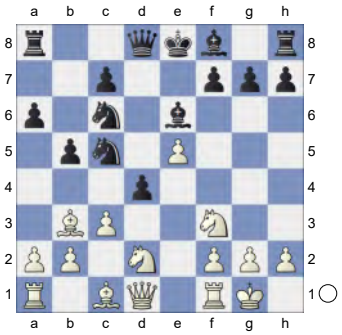
52 **C83**
□ **Vitiugov,Nikita** **2676**
■ **Santos Latasa,Jaime** **2624**
Bundesliga 2425 (1.7) 05.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

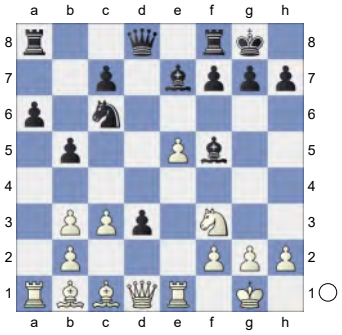
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 d4



11.Bc2 Be7 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 Bf5 15.Re1 15.b4 is becoming the main line .15.b4 wird zur Hauptvariante. **15...0-0**

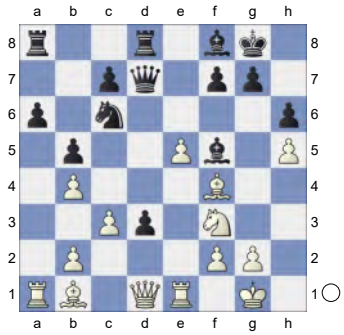


16.Be3 Qd5 17.b4 Qd7 18.h4 Rfd8 19.Bf4 h6 20.h5N

[Vorgänger: 20.Re3 a5 21.bxa5 Rxa5 0.74/25 *(21...Bc5= 0.15/20 22.Re1 b4; 21...Nxa5 22.e6 fxe6 23.Ne5 Qd5 24.Qh5 Nc4 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Qf7+ Kh8 27.Rg3 Bf8 28.Nd7 Nd6 29.Bxd6 Qxd6 30.Nf6 Bh7 31.Bxd3 Qf4 32.Bxh7 Ra1+ 33.Kh2 Qxh4+ 34.Rh3 Qf4+ 35.Rg3 Qh4+ 36.Rh3* Chapter C75-Games Game 4 (35)*)* 22.Rxa5± Nxa5 23.Nd4! Nc4 24.Nxf5 Nxe3 25.Nxe3 c5 26.b3 0.44/19 *(26.h5± 1.45/20)* 26...Bxh4± 27.c4 -0.01/19 0-1 Kasimdzhanov,R (2703)-Wei,Y (2694) Asian Continental op 15th 2016 (8) *(27.Qh5± 0.37/20 Ra8 28.Nf5)* 27...Qd4 28.g3 bxc4 29.bxc4 Bg5 30.Nf5 Qc3 31.Bxg5 hxg5 32.Ne3 g6 33.Kg2 Kg7 34.e6 fxe6 35.Qa4 Qd4 36.Qc6 Rd6 37.Qb7+ Rd7 38.Qc6 e5 39.Qe6 e4 40.Qg4 Rb7 41.Qc8 Rf7 42.Qe6 Kasimdzhanov,R (2703)-Wei,Y (2694) Toshkent UZB 2016 [Mikhalevski,V] 0-1 (49)]

20...Bf8 0.46/21

[20...Ra7= -0.01/18]



21.Re3!± Be7 Against Nh4 **22.Ba2 Qc8** 1.18/21

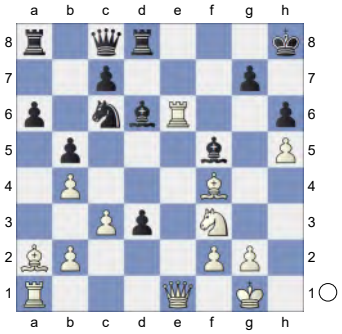
[22...a5= 0.20/18 keeps the balance. 23.bxa5 Bc5]

23.e6!±

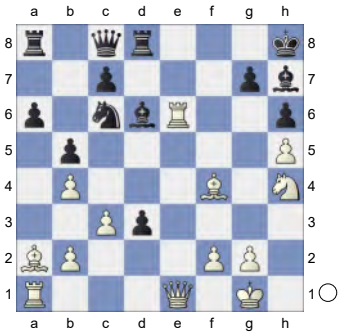
[23.Qb3?! Be6 24.Qd1 Bxa2 25.Rxa2 Qe6=]

23...fxe6 24.Qe1! Bd6 25.Rxe6 Kh8

(Diagram)

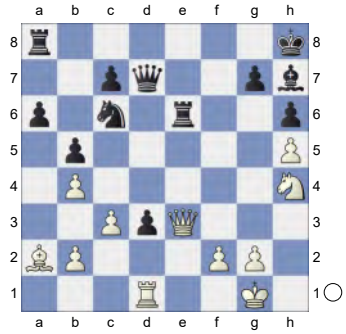


26.Nh4 0.26/21
[26.Bxh6!± 1.58/22 Re8 27.Rxe8+ Qxe8 28.Qxe8+ *(28.Bd5 Qxh5 29.Bxc6 Bg4±)* 28...Rxe8 29.Be3]
26...Bh7? 2.87/22
[26...Bxe6? 27.Bxe6 Re8 28.Ng6+ Kh7 29.Qe4! *(29.Bxc8 Rxe1+ 30.Rxe1 Rxc8±)* 29...Rxe6 30.Nf8+ Kg8 31.Nxe6 Bxf4 32.Nxf4+-]
[26...Bxf4= 0.26/21 and Black is okay. 27.Nxf5 d2]

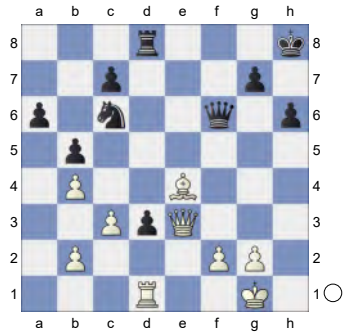


27.Qe3 1.67/20
[⌓27.Bxh6! 2.87/22 gxh6 *(27...Re8 28.Ng6+)* 28.Qd2]
27...Bxf4+- 28.Qxf4 Threatening mate with Rxh6. **28...Qd7**
[28...d2 29.Rxh6! d1Q+ 30.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 31.Kh2]
29.Rd1 0.33/24
[29.Ng6++- 1.71/22 Bxg6 30.Rxg6]
29...Re8!± 30.Qe3 Black must now prevent Ng6+. **30...Rxe6**

(Diagram)

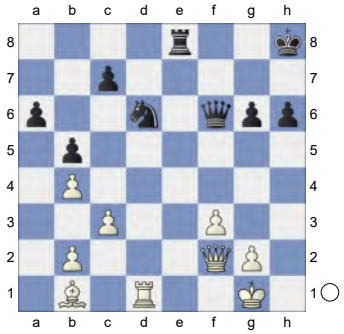


31.Bxe6 Qe8 32.Ng6+ Bxg6 33.hxg6 Qxg6 34.Bd5 Rd8 0.88/23
[34...Re8± 0.34/24 35.Qxd3 Qxd3 36.Rxd3 Rd8]
35.Be4!±
[Inferior is 35.Rxd3 Ne5! 36.Be4 Rxd3∓]
[35.Qxd3 Qxd3 36.Rxd3 g5±]
35...Qf6

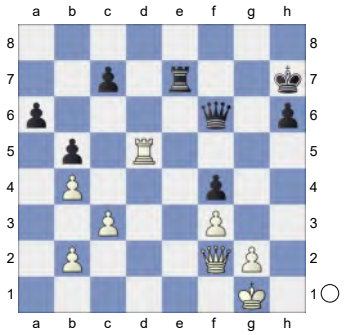


36.Rxd3 Threatens to win with Bxc6.
36...Re8 37.f3 0.61/20
[37.Qe2± 0.96/22]
37...Ne5!± 38.Rd1 Nc4 39.Qf2
[39.Qd4 with more complications. Qh4 40.Bg6 Re1+ 41.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 42.Kh2]
39...Nd6 40.Bb1 g6

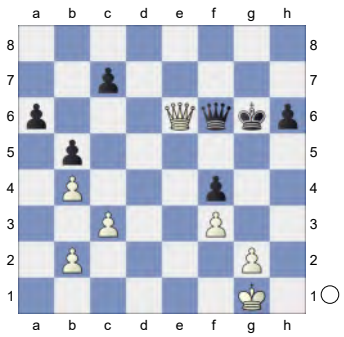
(Diagram)



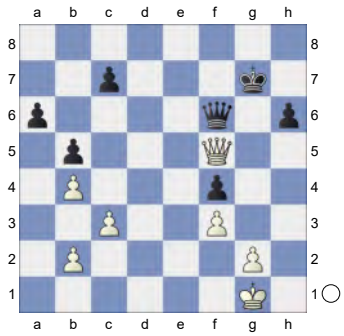
41.Bd3 Re7 42.Ra1 Nf5 43.Bxf5 gxf5 Endgame KQR-KQR **44.Rd1 Kh7 45.Rd5 f4**



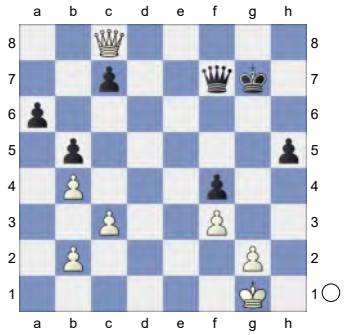
46.Qc2+ Kg7! (-> ...Re1+) **47.Qf5 Qh4! 48.Re5 Rxe5 49.Qxe5+** KQ-KQ **49...Kg6** 1.88/27
[49...Kf8!± 0.67/24]
50.Qe6+ 1.27/26
[Weaker is 50.Qxc7 Qe1+ 51.Kh2 Qh4+ 52.Kg1 Qe1+ 53.Kh2 Qh4+ 54.Kg1=]
[50.Qe8++- 1.88/27 Kh7 51.Qd7+ Kg6 52.Qc6+ *(52.Qxc7 Qe1+ 53.Kh2 Qh4+ 54.Kg1 Qe1+ 55.Kh2 Qh4+ 56.Kg1=)* 52...Qf6 53.Qxc7]
50...Qf6±



51.Qe4+ 0.17/23
[Better is 51.Qg8+± 1.14/25 Qg7 52.Qe8+ Kg5 53.Qd8+ Kg6 54.Qd3+ Kg5 55.Qd8+ Kg6 56.Qe8+ Qf7 57.Qc6+ Kg5 58.Qxa6]
51...Kg7 52.Qd5 Qd6 Prevents Qd7+.
53.Qf5 Qf6 1.16/23
[53...Qb6+± 0.32/23 54.Kh1 Qd6]

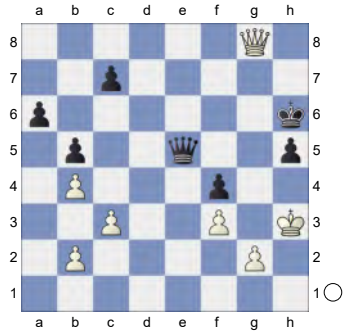


54.Qd7+! Qf7 55.Qc8 h5

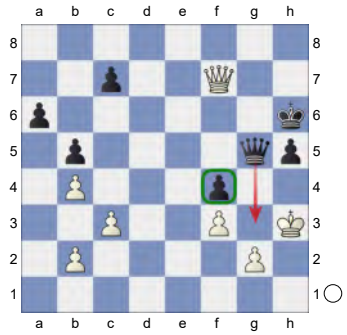


56.Kh2 0.44/26 &Bianco is more active.
[56.Qxa6± 1.24/24 Qe8 57.Kh2]
56...Qe7± 57.Kh3 Against Qh4+. Qf5 is the strong threat. **57...Qe5** Against Qf5 **58.Qd7+ Kf6 59.Qd8+ Kg6 60.Qg8+ Kh6**

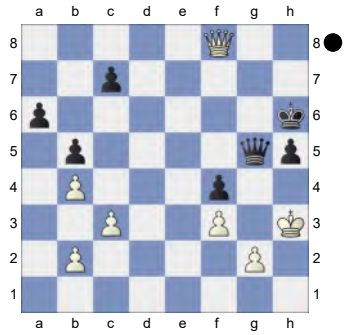
(Diagram)



61.Qf8+ Kg6 62.Qg8+ Kh6 63.Qf7! Qg5 64.Qf8+ Kh7 65.Qf7+ Kh6



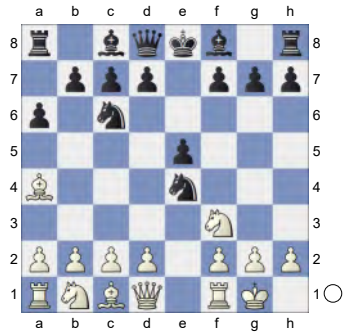
66.Qf8+ -0.01/31
[66.Qe6+± 0.38/26
is more appropriate. Qg6 67.Qe1]



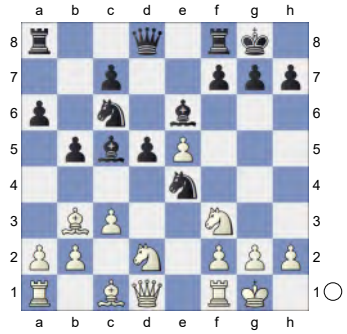
Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)
½-½

53 **C82**
□ **Stockfish16** **2827**
■ **Intron014** **2894**
Blitz 09.10.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

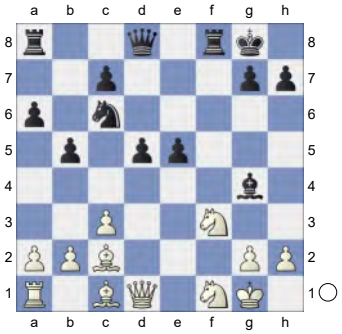


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0

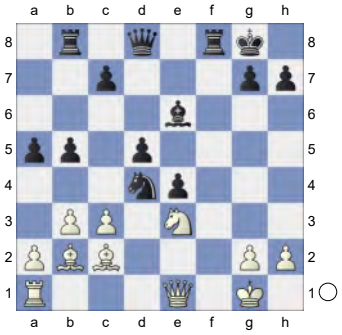


11.Bc2 Nxf2 12.Rxf2 f6 13.Nf1 -0.01/20
[13.exf6± 0.50/20 Qxf6 14.Qf1]
13...Bxf2+= 14.Kxf2 fxe5 15.Kg1 Bg4

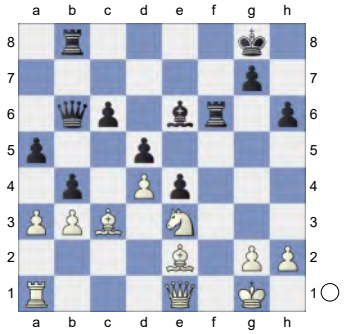
(Diagram)



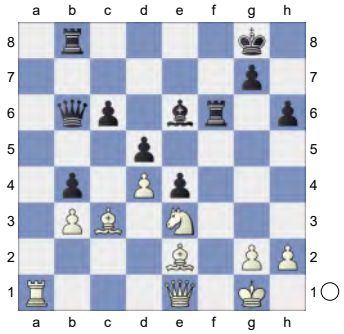
White must now prevent ...e4. **16.Ne3** White has compensation. **16...Be6**
17.b3 a5
[17...Kh8 18.Ba3 Rf4 19.Bc5 d4 20.cxd4 exd4 21.Qd3 Bg8 22.Nf5 Qd5 23.Ba3 Re8 24.Rd1 Rfe4 25.Ng3 Re3 26.Qd2 R3e6 27.Bb2 Rd8 28.Nxd4 Qc5 29.Ne4 Qe7 30.Qe3 Nxd4 31.Rxd4 Rxd4 32.Qxd4 Carlsen,M (2862)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2757) Wijk aan Zee NED 2015 [Glenn Flear] ½-½ (51)]
18.Bb2N
[18.c4 bxc4 19.bxc4 dxc4 20.Qxd8 Raxd8 21.Ng5 Nd4 22.Bxh7+ Kh8 23.Ba3 Rf4 24.Bc5 Rb8 25.Bxd4 exd4 26.Nxe6 Rf6 27.Nxc4 Kxh7 28.Ng5+ Kg8 29.Nf3 c5 30.Rc1 a4 31.h4 Chapter-Open Spanish 9.c3 Bc5 [GM Ivan Cheparinov] (31)]
18...Rb8 19.Qe1 e4! 20.Nd4 Nxd4



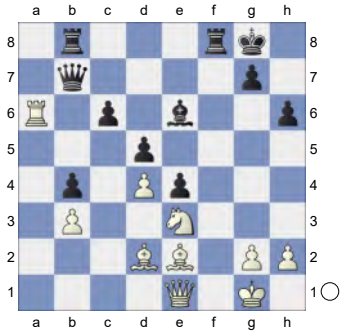
21.cxd4 c6 22.Bd1 Rf6 23.a3 Qb6 24.Be2 h6 25.Bc3 b4 0.59/23
[25...Rg6= 0.25/18]



26.axb4± axb4

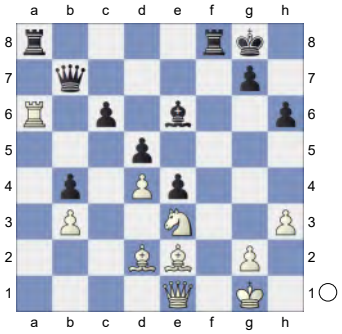


27.Ra6! Qb7 28.Bd2 Rff8 1.08/21
[28...Bd7± 0.61/20 might be stronger.]

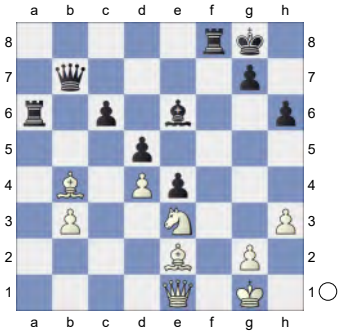


29.h3 0.53/20
[29.Ra4!± 1.08/21]
29...Ra8

(Diagram)



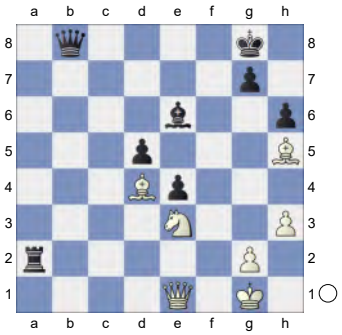
30.Bxb4! Rxa6



31.Bxf8 Ra2 32.Bd6 Qxb3 33.Bh5 c5! 34.Be5 Qg3 is the strong threat. **34...cxd4**

[34...Qb2? 35.Qg3 g5 36.dxc5+- *(36.Nd1 Qa3±)*]

35.Bxd4 Qb8

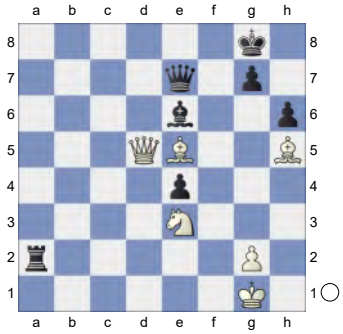


36.Qc1 aiming for Qc6. **36...Qd6** Inhibits Qc6. **37.Qc3 Bxh3** (-> ...Qg3) **38.Be5** Prevents Qg3. **38...Qf8 39.Qc6** Really sharp!

[Much weaker is 39.gxh3 Qf2+ 40.Kh1 Kh7=]

39...Qe7 40.Qxd5+ Be6

(Diagram)



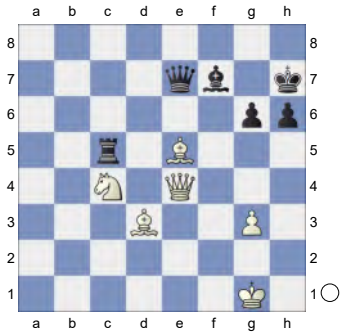
41.Qxe4

[Don't play 41.Qc6 Bf7 42.Qc8+ Kh7 43.Bxg7 *(43.Qf5+ Kg8=)* 43...Qe8 44.Qxe8 Bxe8 45.Bxe8 Kxg7=]

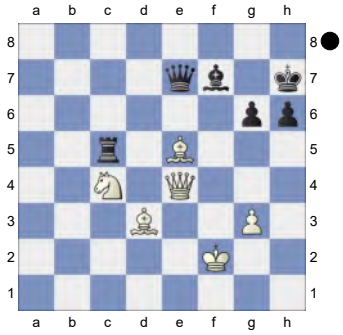
41...Ra5 42.Be2 This bishop pair is nice. **42...Bf7 43.Nc4 Rc5 44.Bd3** Hoping for Qh7+. **44...g6 45.g3** -0.01/24 0x0.002cd9bee924dp-1022s more active pieces.

[White should play 45.Qf4± 1.00/24]

45...Kh7!=



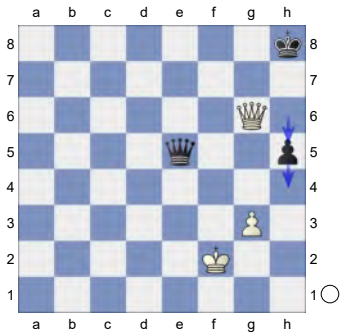
The position is equal. **46.Kf2**



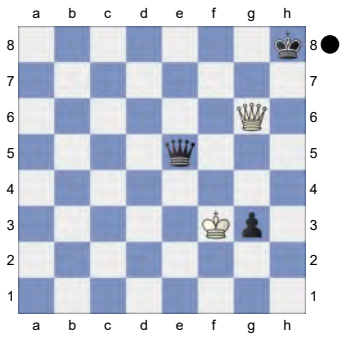
Rxc4! Remove Defender, Deflection **47.Bxc4 Bxc4**

[47...Qc5+ looks sharper. 48.Bd4 Qxc4 49.Qe5 Qc2+]

48.Qxc4 Threatens to win with Qc7. **48...Qxe5** KQ-KQ **49.Qf7+ Kh8 50.Qxg6 h5**



51.Kf3 h4 52.Kg2 hxg3 53.Kf3

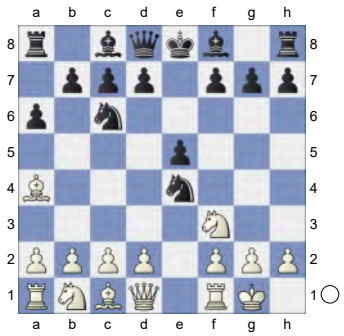


Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

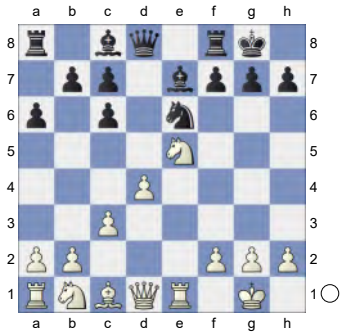
54 **C80**
☐ **Naroditsky,Daniel** **2619**
■ **Wagner,Dennis** **2614**
Titled Tuesday intern op 28th Jan Early b..
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



6.Re1 Nc5 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.d4 Ne6 9.Nxe5 Be7 10.c3 0-0



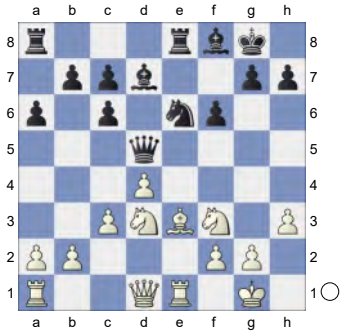
11.Be3 f6 12.Nd3 Re8
[12...Rf7 13.Nd2 Nf8 14.Qf3 Qd5 15.Bf4 Bf5 16.Qxd5 cxd5 17.Re3 Bd8 18.Rae1 a5 19.f3 b6 20.Bg3 g5 15) Nimzo Indian: 4...b6 5.Ne- Alternative to 9.Rxf1 #2 Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 - 2023]
13.Nd2 **Bf8!?** The position is equal. Leaves trodden paths.Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade. **14.Nf3N**
[14.Nf1 Qd7 15.Ng3 Qf7 16.Qb3 Nd8 17.Qxf7+ Kxf7 18.Bf4 Rxe1+ 19.Rxe1 Ne6 20.Bc1 b6 21.f4 Nd8 22.f5 Nb7 23.Nf4 Bd7 24.d5 Bc5+ 25.Be3 Re8 26.Kf2 Bd6 27.Bd2 Rxe1 28.Kxe1 Nc5 Chapter-Games Game 3 29.dxc6 Bxc6 30.Nge2 Be4 31.g4 g5 32.fxg6+ hxg6 33.b4 Nd7 34.Ng3 Bb1 35.g5 Ne5 36.Ke2 Bxa2 37.Ne4 Bc4+ 38.Kf2 fxg5 39.Nxg5+ Kg7 40.Ne4 Be7 41.Ke3 Bf7 42.h3 g5 43.Ne2 Nc4+ Model Games-Stojanovic,D Lifetime

Repertoires: Plichta's 1.e4 e5 0-1 (56)]

14...Qd5N

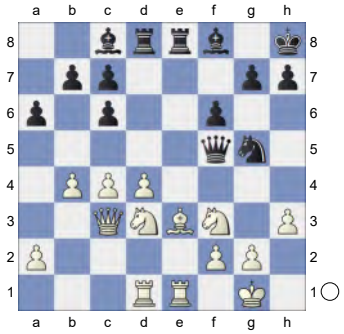
[14...Kh8 15.h3 Qd6 16.Qd2 Bd7 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.a3 Bc8 19.b4 b6 20.Qc1 g5 0-1 Pohludka,O (1991)-Olsar,J (2271) Havirov op 14th 2013 (1)]

15.h3 Bd7



16.Qc2 Qf5 17.c4 Rad8 18.Qc3 Bc8 19.Rad1 Kh8 20.b4 Ng5 0.91/22

[20...Kg8= 0.09/19]



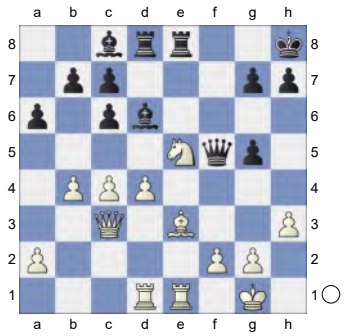
21.Nxg5 0.43/21

[White should play 21.Bxg5± 0.91/22 fxg5 22.Nfe5]

21...fxg5± 22.Ne5 Bd6? 3.54/24

[22...Kg8= 0.25/21]

(Diagram)



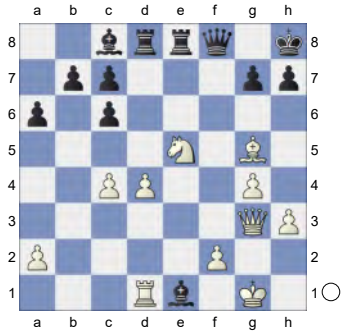
23.g4? 0.54/24

[Only move: 23.Bxg5!+- 3.54/24 Be6 *(23...Rd7 24.Nxd7)* 24.Bxd8 Rxd8 25.Rd3]

23...Qf8! 24.Bxg5 Bxb4 25.Qg3 -0.01/23

[25.Qe3± 0.70/23]

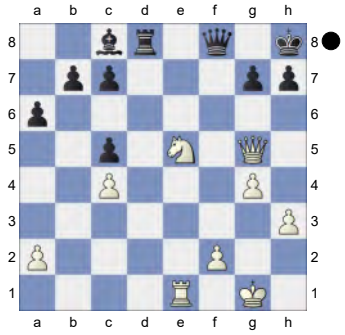
25...Bxe1=



26.Bxd8 Rxd8 27.Rxe1 Rxd4 28.Qb3 -0.54/20

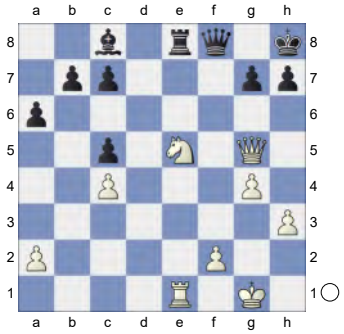
[28.Nd3= -0.15/20 deserves consideration.]

28...c5!∓ 29.Qe3 Rd8 30.Qg5

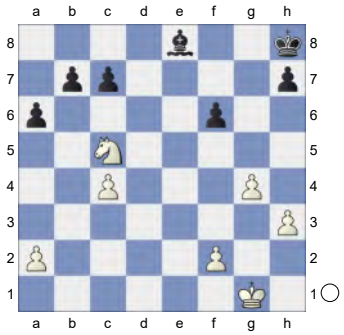


Re8 -0.43/22

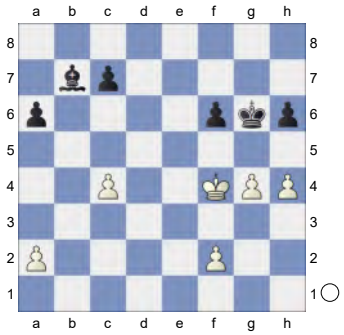
[30...Kg8!∓ -0.84/19]



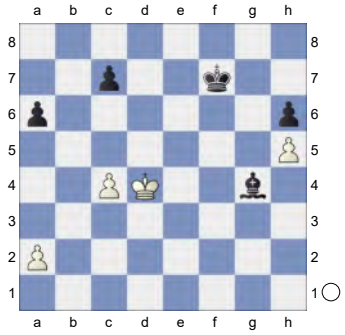
31.Re3 Be6 32.Nd3 -1.51/21
[32.Rf3∓ -0.50/20 Qe7 33.Qxe7 Rxe7 34.Re3 *(34.Rf8+ Bg8∓)*]
32...Qf6? 1.35/21
[32...Bxc4∓ -1.51/21 White must now prevent ...Rxe3. 33.Qxc5 Bxa2 34.Rxe8 Qxe8 35.Qxc7 b5]
33.Qxf6±
[Don't play 33.Qxc5?! Rc8=]
33...gxf6 34.Nxc5 Bf7 35.Rxe8+ Bxe8



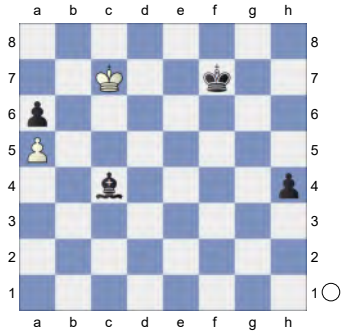
36.Nxb7 Endgame KB-KN **36...Kg7 37.Kg2?** -5.75/23
[37.f4± 1.49/23 and life is bright.]
37...Bc6+-+ 38.Kg3 Threatens to win with Nc5. **38...Bxb7** KB-KP **39.Kf4 Kg6 40.h4 h6**



Hoping for ...c5. **41.h5+ Kf7** And now ... c5 would win. **42.Ke3 Bc8 43.f3 f5 44.Kd4 fxg4 45.fxg4 Bxg4**



46.Kd5 Bxh5 KB-KPP **47.Kc6 Be2** Black mates. **48.Kxc7 Bxc4 49.a4 h5 50.a5 h4**

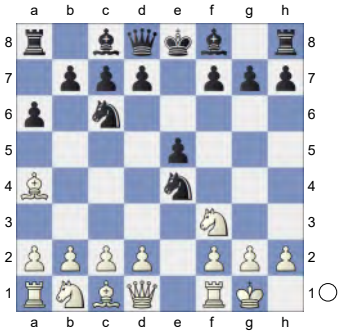


Never resign too early!
Weighted Error Value: White=0.90/ Black=0.57
0-1

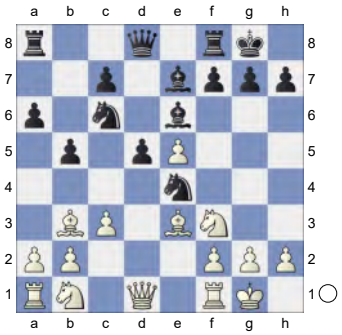
55 **C80**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2835**
■ **Tabatabaei,Mohammad Amin** **2696**
Julius Baer Rapid Div 1 W (1.1) 30.08.23
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 0-0



11.Nbd2 Bg4 12.h3 Nxd2! 13.hxg4 Nxf1 14.Qxf1N -0.26/20

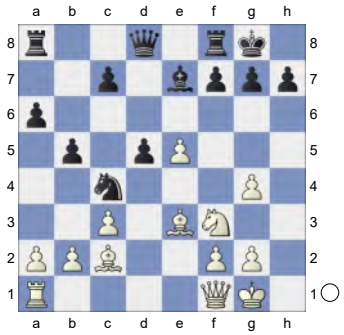
[14.Kxf1 0.22/21 is more appropriate. Na5 15.Bxd5 c6 16.Be4 Qxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Nc4 *(17...Rad8 18.Rxd8 Bxd8 19.b4 Nc4 20.Bc5 Re8 21.Bxc6 Re6 22.Bd5 Re8 23.e6 fxe6 24.Bc6 Kf7 25.Bxe8+ Kxe8 26.Ke2 Kd7 27.Bd4 g6 28.Kd3 Kd6 29.Ke4 Nb6 30.Bc5+ Kd7 31.Ne5+ Ke8 32.Bxb6* Smagin,S (2540)-Kotliar,M (2270) Philadelphia 1989 CBM 93 [Postny,Evgeny] 1-0 (47) *)* 18.Bc1

A) 18...Rfd8 19.Re1 Rac8 20.g5 *(20.Nd4 Bc5 21.Bf5 Rc7 22.e6 Bxd4 23.cxd4 Re8 24.b3 g6 25.bxc4 gxf5 26.gxf5 fxe6 27.fxe6 Rce7 28.d5 bxc4 29.Ba3 cxd5 30.Bxe7 Rxe7 31.Re5 d4 32.Re4 d3 33.Rxc4 Rxe6 34.Rd4 Re2* Lunacek,J (2721)-Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2747) Tornelo INT 2022 200 Traps In The Opening [Nyback/Meyer,CD] ½-½ (38) *)* 20...g6 21.g3 Caruana,F (2806)-Dominguez Perez,L (2758) Saint Louis (blitz) 149/(125) 2021 Chess Informant 149 [Milanovic,Danilo];

B) 18...Rad8 19.Re1 c5 20.g3 Nb6 21.Kg2 Nd5 *(21...Rd7 22.Bc2 Re8 23.Bf5 Rdd8 24.Be4 Nd5 25.Bd2 c4* Harikrishna,P (2719)-Tabatabaei,M (2623) Belgrad 2022 [Perunovic,Milos]*)* 22.g5 Nc7 23.Nh4 Ne6 24.f4 g6 25.Nf3 c4 26.f5 gxf5 27.Bxf5 Rfe8 28.Rh1 Nf8 29.Be3 Rd5 30.Be4 Jego,E (2635)-Chernov,V (2609) Legnica 2022 200 Traps In The Opening [Nyback/Meyer,CD] ½-½ (47)]

14...Na5!= 15.Bc2 Nc4

[15...g6?! 16.Bh6∓]



16.Bf4 A strong pair of Bishops. **16...f6** 0.01/20

[16...g6∓ -0.54/20 17.b3 Na3]

17.e6 Bd6 18.g3 -0.50/20

[18.Re1= -0.02/19 deserves consideration.]

18...g6∓

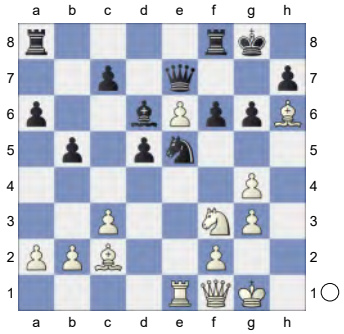
[18...Nxb2 19.Qb1 f5 20.Qxb2 Bxf4 21.gxf4±]

19.Re1 Qe7!

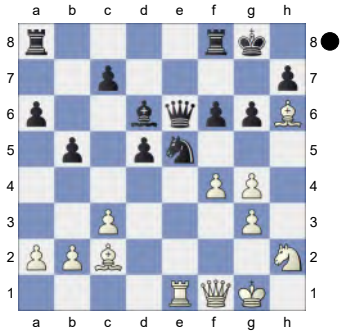
[19...Nxb2?! 20.Nd4 Re8 21.Nc6∓]

20.Bh6 Ne5 0.01/21

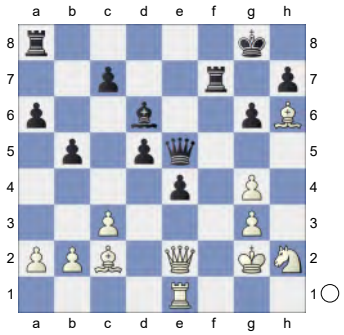
[20...Rfe8∓ -0.56/19 21.Bb3 Rad8]



21.Nh2
[21.Nxe5 fxe5 22.Bxf8 Rxf8∓]
21...Qxe6 22.f4

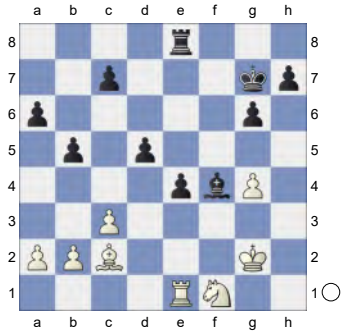


Rf7! 23.fxe5
[23.Qe2 Re8]
23...fxe5 24.Qe2 e4 25.Kg2 Qe5

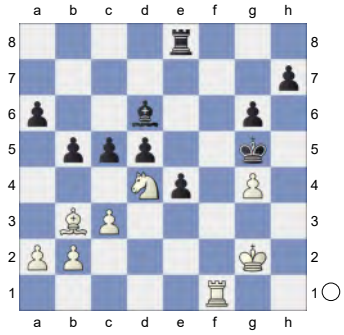


26.Qe3 Re8
[26...Rf3 27.Nxf3 Qxg3+ 28.Kf1 Qh3+ 29.Kf2 Qg3+ 30.Kf1 Qh3+ 31.Kf2 Qg3+ 32.Kf1±]
27.Bf4 -0.33/20
[27.Rf1= -0.01/20]
27...Rxf4
[27...Qe7 keeps more tension. 28.Rf1 Bxf4 29.Rxf4 Qg5]

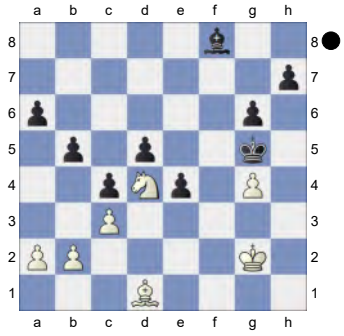
28.gxf4 Qxf4 29.Qxf4 Bxf4 30.Nf1 Kg7



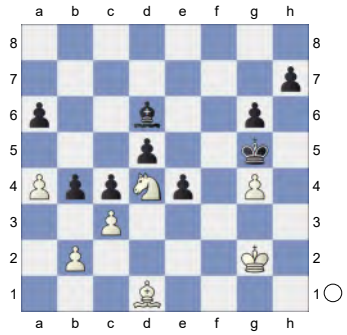
Black has compensation. **31.Ng3 Kf6**
32.Ne2 Bd6 0.13/21
[32...Ke5 -0.24/20 was preferrable.]
33.Rf1+ Kg5 0.34/21
[33...Ke5= 0.01/21 is superior.]
34.Bb3 -0.01/23
[34.Rf7± 0.34/21 feels stronger.]
34...c6= 35.Nd4 c5



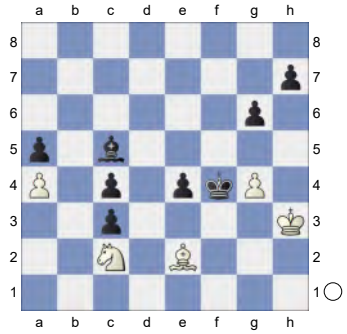
36.Ne2 c4 37.Bd1 Rf8
[37...Re6 feels hotter. 38.Rf7 Rf6 39.Rxh7 e3]
38.Rxf8 Bxf8 39.Nd4 -0.83/24
[39.a4= -0.01/23 keeps the balance.]



39...Bd6 -0.20/24
[39...Kf4!∓ -0.83/24]
40.a4 -0.58/22
[40.Ne6+= -0.20/24 Kf6 41.Nd4]
40...b4!∓

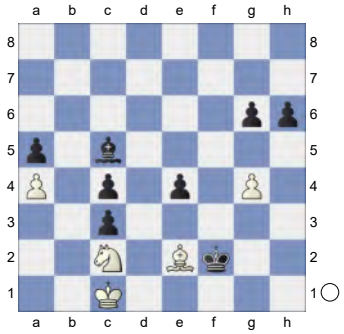


41.b3 -1.01/22
[41.cxb4∓ -0.57/22 Bxb4 42.Ne6+ Kf6 43.Nd8]
41...bxc3 -0.52/21
[41...Kf4∓ -1.01/22 Strongly threatening ...Ke3. 42.bxc4 dxc4]
42.bxc4 dxc4 43.Nc2 Kf4 44.Be2 a5 45.Kh3 Bc5

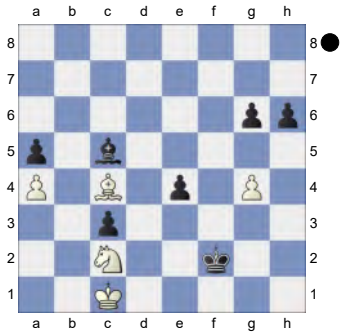


46.Kg2 h6 47.Kf1 Kg3 48.Ke1 Bf2+ 49.Kd1 Bc5 50.Kc1 -0.41/25
[50.Bxc4 Kxg4 51.Bf7 Kf5∓]
[50.Ke1!= 0.01/24 should be considered.]
50...Kf2

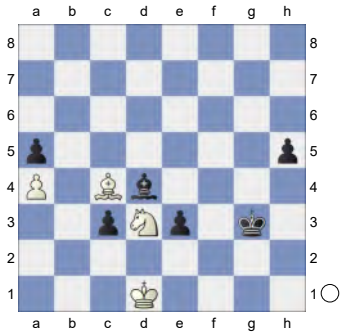
(Diagram)



51.Bxc4 -2.03/24
[51.Kd1∓ -0.58/28]

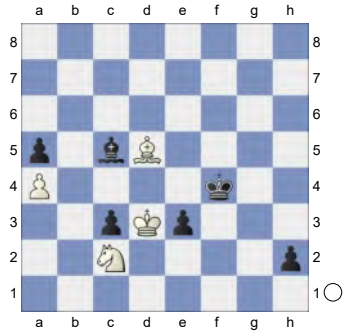


51...e3? -0.01/30
[51...h5!-+ -2.03/24 52.gxh5 gxh5]
52.Kd1= The position is equal. **52...h5 53.gxh5 gxh5 54.Ne1 Bd4 55.Nd3+ Kg3**

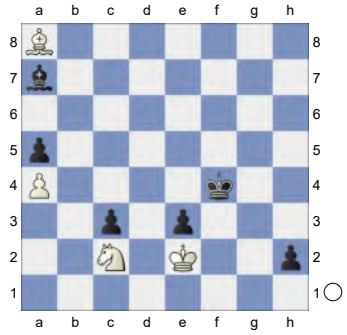


56.Ke2 h4 57.Ne1 Bc5 58.Nc2 Kf4 59.Bd5 h3 60.Kd3 h2

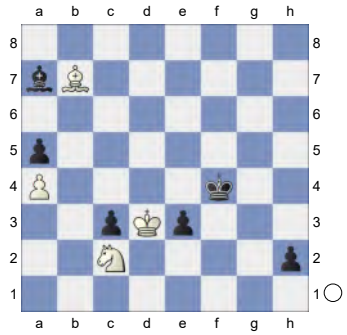
(Diagram)



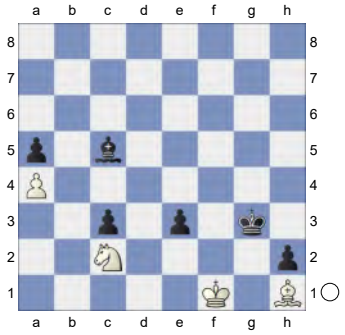
61.Bh1 Bb6 62.Ne1
[62.Kxc3? Kg3 63.Ne1 Kf2 64.Nd3+ Kf1-+]
62...Kg3! And now ...c2! would win.
63.Ke2
[But not 63.Kxc3? Kf2 64.Nc2 e2-+]
63...Bc5 64.Ba8 Ba7 65.Nc2 Kf4!



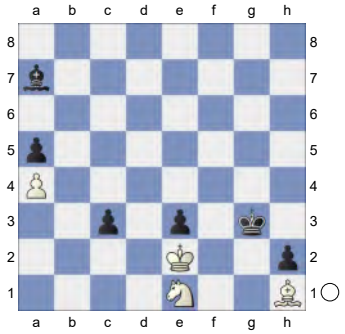
66.Bc6 Bc5 67.Kd3 Ba7 68.Bb7 Bb6 69.Na3
[Not 69.Kxc3? Kg3 70.Ne1 *(70.Kd3? Kf2-+)* 70...Kf2-+]
69...Bc5
[69...Kg3!? 70.Ke2 Kf4±]
70.Nc2 Ba7



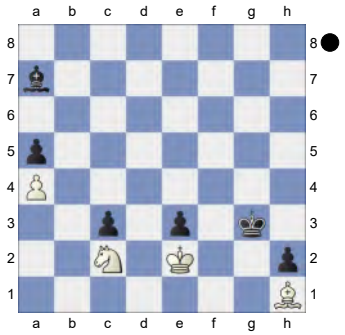
71.Bh1 Bb6 72.Ke2
[Wrong is 72.Kxc3? Kg3 73.Ne1 Kf2 74.Nd3+ Kf1-+]
72...Bc5 73.Ne1 Kg3 74.Kf1 Ba7 75.Nc2 Bc5



76.Ke1 Ba7 77.Ke2 Kf4! 78.Ne1 Kg3 79.Nc2 Kf4! 80.Ne1 Kg3



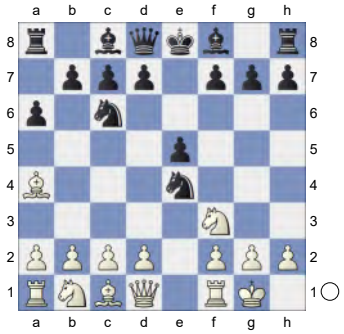
81.Nc2



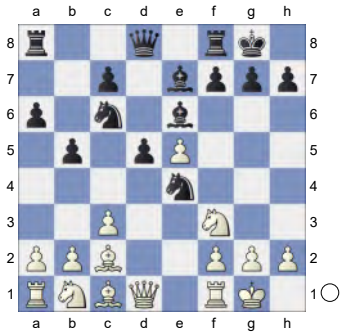
Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)
½-½

56 **C83**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2786**
■ **Sevian,Samuel** **2698**
AI Cup Play-In 2023 (5) 18.09.2023
[Kitty Kat]

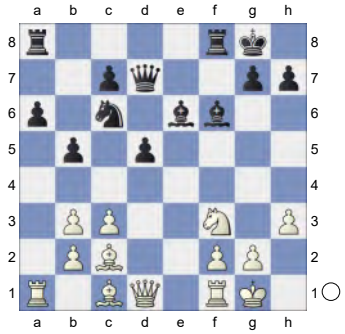
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



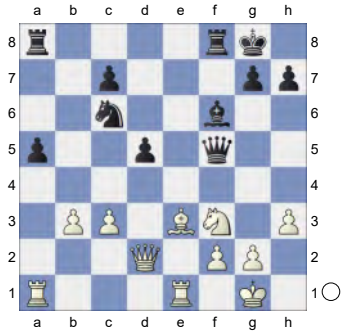
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Bc2 0-0



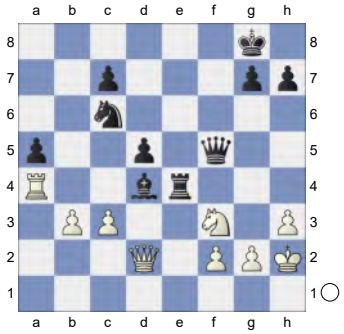
11.h3 0.07/17
[11.Nbd2± 0.40/16]
11...f6
[11...Bc5 keeps more tension. 12.Nbd2 Bf5 13.Nb3 Bb6]
12.exf6! Bxf6 White is slightly better.
13.Nbd2 Nc5 14.Nb3 Inhibits d4.
14...Nxb3 15.axb3 Qd7N
[15...Kh8 16.Qd3 Bg8 17.Bf4 d4 18.Rad1 dxc3 19.Qf5 Qe8 20.Rfe1 Qg6 21.Qxg6 hxg6 22.bxc3 Bxc3 23.Re4 Nb4 24.Bd2 Nxc2 25.Rh4+ Bh7 26.Bxc3 b4 27.Bb2 Rad8 28.Rxd8 Rxd8 29.Ng5 Kg8 30.Rxh7 Vaisman,V (2601)-13.f4 ♗g7 14.0-0 e6_19421 (2644) Dubai UAE 2023 CT-2292 [John Watson] 1-0 (33) Rd1+ 31.Kh2 Nd4 32.Rh4 c5 33.Re4 1-0 (33) Paravyan,D (2601)-Gledura,B (2644) Chess.com INT 2023]



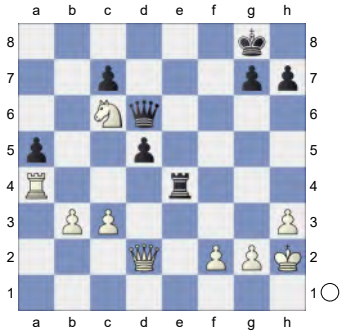
16.Re1 Bf5 Prevents Qd3. **17.Bxf5 Qxf5 18.Be3** Against d4 **18...b4 19.Qd2 bxc3 20.bxc3 a5!**



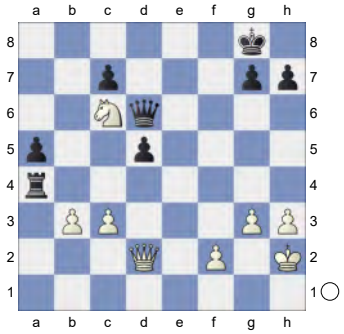
21.Ra4 Rab8 22.Bc5 Rfe8 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Kh2 Re4 0.58/20
[24...Ne5= 0.19/22 is more appropriate. 25.Nxe5 *(25.Qxd5+ Kh8=)* 25...Bxe5+ 26.f4 d4 27.fxe5 Qxe5+ 28.Kg1 Qxc5 29.cxd4 Qd5]
25.Bd4 0.01/19
[Better is 25.Qd3± 0.58/20]
25...Bxd4 0.52/24
[Resist 25...Nxd4 26.cxd4 Be7 27.Rxa5±]
[25...Be7= 0.01/19]



26.Nxd4± Qf6 1.73/20 Loses the game.
[26...Nxd4± 0.41/21 27.cxd4 Qf4+ 28.Qxf4 Rxf4]
27.Nxc6!+- Qd6+

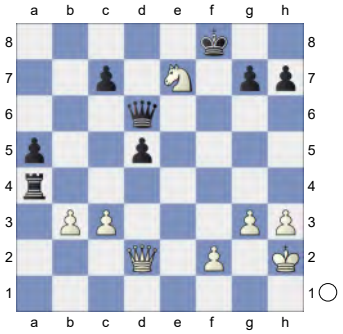


28.g3! Rxa4 Endgame

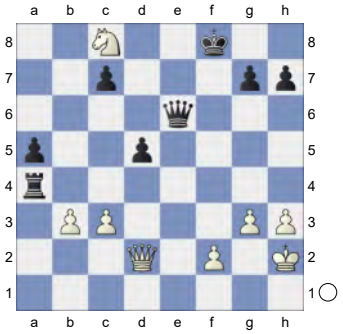


KQR-KQN **29.Ne7+! Kf8**
[29...Kh8 30.bxa4]

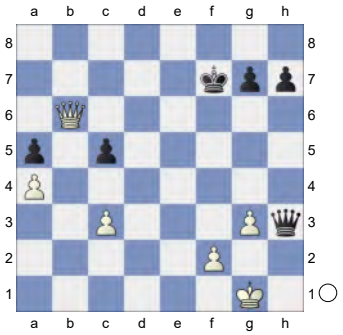
(Diagram)



White must now prevent ...Ra1. **30.Nc8!**
[Not 30.Qxd5? Ra2 31.Qxd6 cxd6-+]
30...Qe6

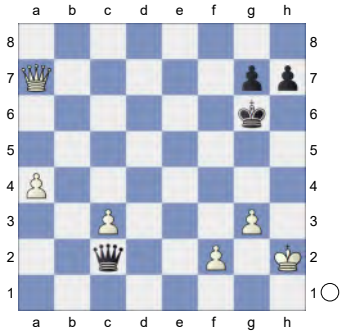


31.bxa4 Qxc8 32.Qxd5 KQ-KQ **32...c5 33.Qd6+ Kf7 34.Qb6 Qf5 35.Kg1**
[Worse is 35.Qxa5 Qxf2+ 36.Kh1 Qxg3=]
35...Qxh3 4.22/21
[35...c4 2.69/19 keeps fighting. 36.Qc7+ Kf6 37.Qxc4 Qb1+ 38.Qf1 Qb6]

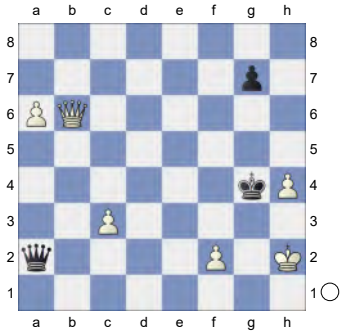


36.Qxc5 Qe6 37.Qxa5 Qe1+ 38.Kg2 Qe4+ 39.Kh2 Qc2 6.69/22
[⌓39...Qe2 4.16/20 40.Qc5 Ke8]

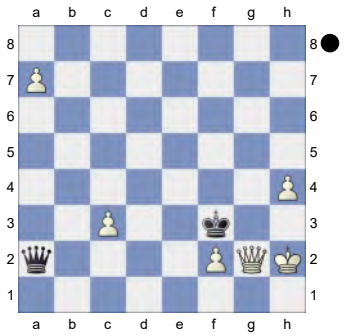
40.Qa7+ Kg6



41.Qd4 4.28/19
[⧠41.Qb6+ 11.86/22 Kh5 42.a5]
41...h5 7.61/22
[⧠41...Qf5 4.28/19 42.c4 Qa5]
42.a5 Qa2 43.Qb6+ Kf5 44.a6 h4 45.gxh4 5.34/21
[⧠45.Qc5+ 13.51/21 Ke6 46.a7]
45...Kg4



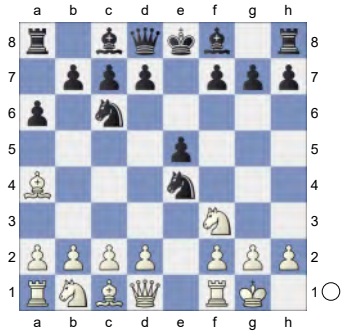
46.a7 White threatens Qe3 and mate.
46...g6 47.Qxg6+ Kf3 48.Qg2+



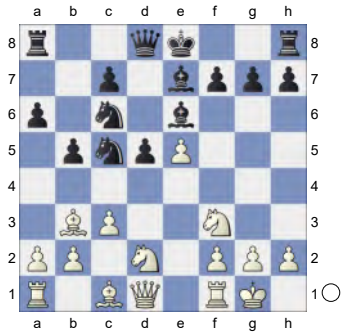
Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/ Black=0.38
1-0

57 **C83**
□ **Chalawan** **2764**
■ **Ominous Octopus** **2945**
Blitz 22.07.2023
[Kitty Kat]

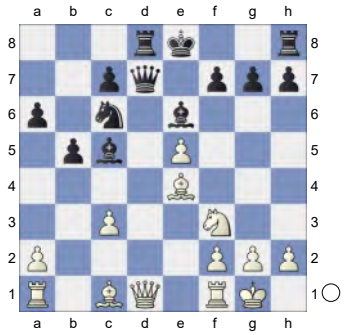
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.c3 Nc5



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 dxc3 13.Nxc5 Bxc5 14.Be4 White is slightly better.
14...Qd7 15.bxc3 Rd8



16.Qc2 Bd5

[16...Ne7 17.Bg5 h6 18.Rfd1 Qc8 19.Bxe7 Rxd1+ 20.Rxd1 Kxe7 21.Nd4 Re8 22.Bf3 g6 23.Qd2 Bxd4 24.cxd4 Bg4 25.d5 Bxf3 26.d6+ Kd7 27.gxf3 Re6 28.Rc1 c5 29.Qe3 c4 30.Qa7+ Ke8 31.Rd1 Nakamura,H (2736)-Carlsen,M (2847) chess24.com INT 2021 [Mikhalevski, V] 1-0 (36)]

17.e6N -0.12/21

[17.Bg5± 0.46/19 Bxe4 18.Qxe4 Ne7 19.Bxe7 Bxe7 20.Qb7 Qc8 21.Qc6+ Qd7 22.Qxa6 0-0 23.Nd4 Rb8 24.Qc6 Rfd8 25.Rfb1 Qd5 26.Qxd5 Rxd5 27.Nc6 Re8 28.c4 Rc5 29.cxb5 g5 30.a4 Rc2 31.Nxe7+ Rxe7 32.a5 Rxe5 33.b6 Witt,R-De Claire Moscow ch 1916 200 Traps In The Opening [John Watson] 1-0 (60) cxb6 34.axb6 Rc8 35.b7 Rb8 36.Ra8 Ree8 37.Rxb8 Rxb8 38.g4 Kg7 39.Kg2 h5 40.gxh5 Kh6 41.Rb6+ Kxh5 42.Kg3 f6 43.f3 Kg6 44.Kg4 Kf7 45.Kf5 Ke7 46.h3 Kd7 47.Kxf6 Kc7 48.Rb3 Capablanca,J-Chajes New York (USA) 1916 1-0 (60)]

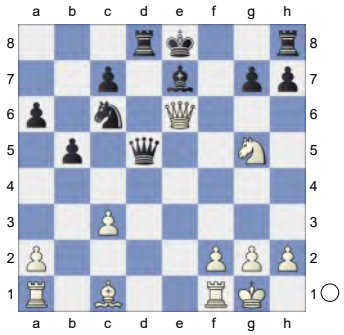
17...fxe6

[17...Qxe6!? 18.Bxd5 Qxd5=]

18.Ng5 Bxe4 0.82/21

[18...g6!= 0.09/19 keeps the balance.]

19.Qxe4± Qd5 20.Qxe6+ Be7



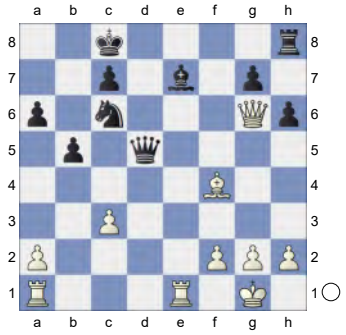
21.Re1 h6? 3.53/21

[21...Qxe6± 0.93/21 22.Nxe6 Rd3]

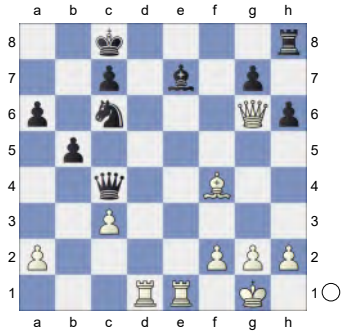
22.Qg6++- Kd7 23.Nf7 Rdf8? 7.70/22

[23...Kc8 3.14/21 24.Nxh8 Rxh8]

24.Nxh8 Rxh8 25.Bf4 Kc8



26.Rad1 Qc4

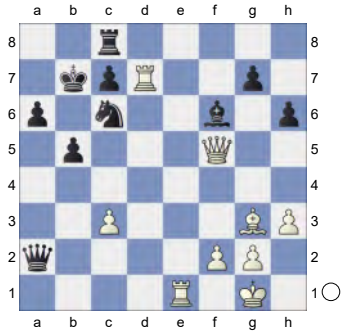


27.Bg3? 3.29/24

[27.Rxe7! 11.44/24 Nxe7 28.Qxa6+ *(28.Qxg7 Re8+-)* 28...Kb8 29.Rb1!]

27...Bf6 28.Qf5+ Kb7 29.Rd7 Rc8 30.h3 Re4 is the strong threat. **30...Qxa2** 2.96/24

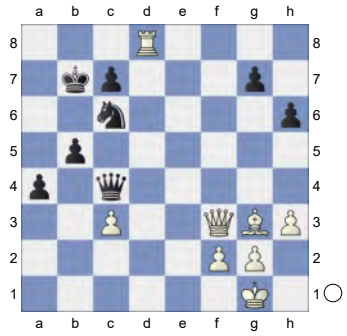
[30...Bxc3± 1.53/20 31.Rc1 b4]



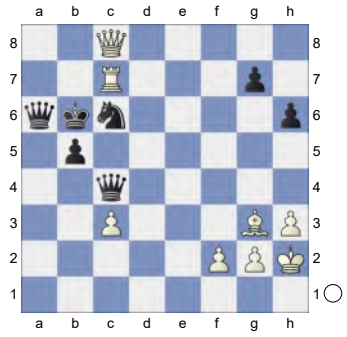
31.Qf4 Bd8 5.87/23

[31...Qa5 3.13/21 was necessary. 32.Re6 Nd8]

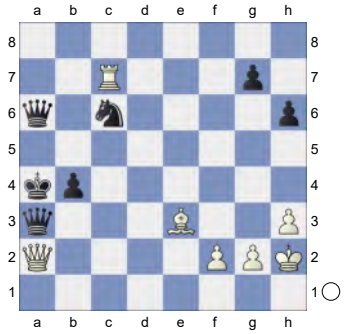
32.Re8 Qc4? 6.58/23
[32...Qa1+ 3.85/22 33.Kh2 Qxc3]
33.Qf3 a5 34.Rexd8 Rxd8 35.Rxd8 a4



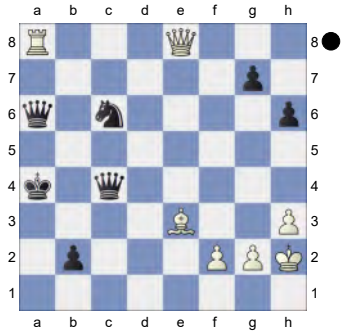
36.Rd7 a3 37.Rxc7+ Kb6 38.Qf8 a2 39.Qc8 4.37/24
[⌓39.Qa8 12.61/23 Rb7+ would kill now. Qxc3 40.Qxa2]
39...a1Q+ 40.Kh2 White threatens Rb7+ and mate. **40...Qa6** #3/8
[40...Qaxc3? 41.Bd6 b4 42.Rb7+ Ka5 43.Qa8+ Qa6 44.Bc7+ Ka4 45.Qxa6++-]
[40...Qa7+- 3.52/22 41.Rxa7 Nxa7 42.Qb8+ Ka6]



Against Rb7+ **41.Qd7??** -2.81/22
[41.Rxc6+! #3/8 mates Qxc6 42.Qd8+ Kc5 43.Qd4#]
41...Qxc3-+ Threatens to win with ...b4.
[Worse is 41...Ka5 42.Rxc6 Qcxc6 43.Bc7+ Ka4 44.Qd1+ Ka3 45.Qa1+ Kb3 46.Qd1+ Kb2 47.Qd2+ Ka3 48.Qc1+ Kb3 49.Qd1+ Kxc3 50.Be5+ Kc4 51.Qd4+ Kb3 52.Qb2+ Kc4 53.Qd4+ Kb3 54.Qb2+ Kc4 55.Qd4+=]
42.Bf4 -3.55/20
[⌓42.f3 -2.46/20]
42...b4 43.Be3+ Kb5 -1.56/22
[43...Ka5-+ -3.76/23 is more deadly. 44.Qd5+ Qb5 45.Qa2+ Qa3]
44.Qd5+ -2.74/23
[44.Ra7∓ -1.56/22 Qxa7 45.Bxa7]
44...Ka4 45.Qa2+ Qa3

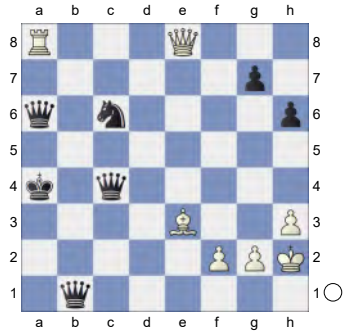


46.Qc2+ Qb3 47.Qe4 -6.01/20
[47.Rxc6 -2.55/21 Qxc2 48.Rxa6+ Kb5 49.Rb6+ Ka5 50.Rb7]
47...Qbc4 Black is clearly winning.
48.Qe8 -7.59/20
[⌓48.Qb1 -4.24/19]
48...b3 Hoping for ...b2. **49.Rc8 b2 50.Ra8**



b1Q!

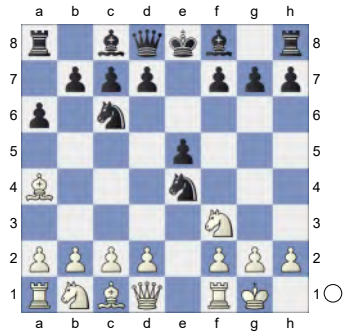
(Diagram)



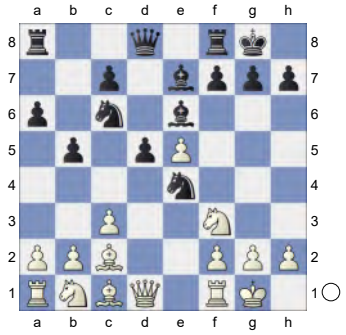
Never resign too early!
Weighted Error Value: White=1.20/ Black=0.82
0-1

58 **C83**
☐ **Giri,Anish** **2760**
■ **Sevian,Samuel** **2698**
AI Cup Play-In 2023 (8) 18.09.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

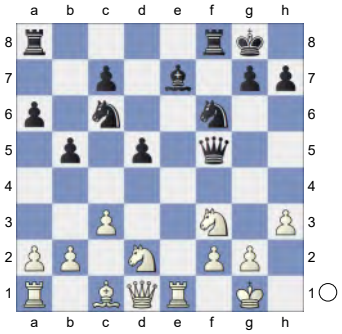


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Bc2
[10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Bc2 f5 12.Nb3 Qd7 13.Nbd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 c5 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.f3 Ng5 17.Qe2 Rad8 18.Be3 f4 19.Bf2 Qc6 20.a4 *(20.Rfd1!?)* 20...c4! 21.b4 cxb3 22.Bxb3 Qxc3 23.Rab1 Bc5 24.axb5 axb5 ½-½ Giri,A (2760)-Sevian,S (2684) FTX Road to Miami Prelim 2022 (3)]
10...0-0

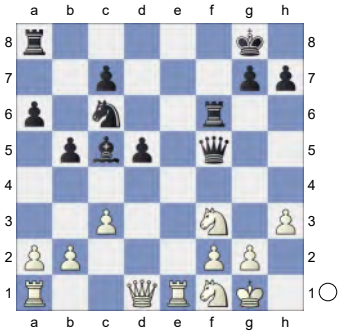


10...Bg4 is the fancy move.10...Lg4 ist der angesagte Zug. **11.h3 Qd7 12.Nbd2 f5** White is slightly better.
13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Re1 Bf5N
[14...Rae8 15.Nf1 Bf5 16.Bxf5 Qxf5 17.Ng3 Qd7 18.Qd3 Bd6 19.Bg5 Bxg3 20.fxg3 Ne4 21.Bf4 h6 22.Rad1 g5 23.Bxc7 Rf7 24.Bb6 Ne5 25.Nxe5 Rxe5 26.Rf1 Ref5 27.Rxf5 Qxf5 28.g4 Qe6 29.Bd4 Novy,M (2644)-Bonacker (2607) Sautron 2023 CT-2292 [John Watson] 1-0 (84)]
15.Bxf5N
[Vorgänger: 15.Nb3 Bd6 16.Be3 Bxh3 17.gxh3 Qxh3 Strongly threatening ...Rae8. 18.Ng5 Qh2+ 19.Kf1 Rae8 And now ...Qh1+ would win. 20.Qf3 -0.69/21 Against Qh1+ *(20.Bxh7+!=* 0.01/23 *Nxh7 21.Qxd5+ Kh8 22.Nf7+ Rxf7 23.Qxf7)* 20...Ne4 0.61/19 *(*Black should play *20...h6∓* -0.69/21 *21.Nh7 Nxh7 22.Qxd5+ Kh8)* 21.Bxe4± Rxf3 22.Bxf3 0.16/20 1-0 Murzin,V (2465)-Repka,C (2488) PNWCC Online blitz JP 19th 2020 (7) *(22.Bxd5+±* 0.79/22 *Kh8 23.Bxf3)*]
15...Qxf5

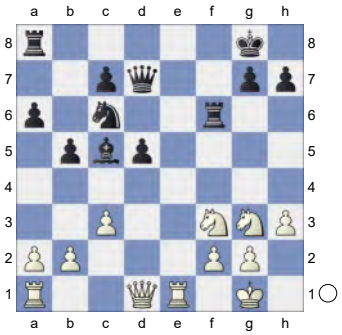
(Diagram)



16.Nf1 Bc5 17.Be3 Bd6 18.Bg5 Bc5 1.39/18
[18...Ne5= 0.28/21 19.Nxe5 Qxg5]
19.Bxf6± Rxf6 2.92/21
[19...gxf6 1.70/24 is a better defense. 20.Ng3 Qd7]

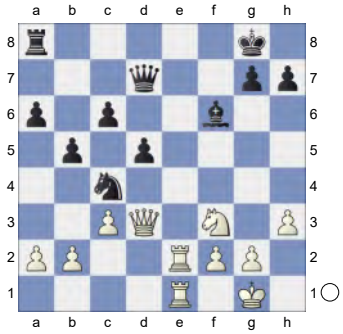


20.Ng3!+- Qd7

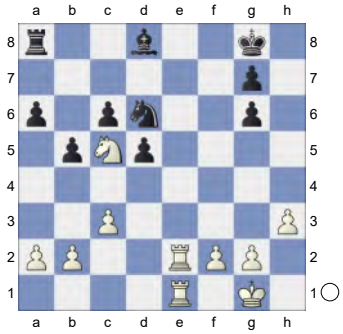


21.Ne4! Be7 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 23.Qd3 Na5 3.85/22
[⌓23...Rd8 2.44/19 24.Re2 d4]
24.Re2 c6 25.Rae1 Nc4

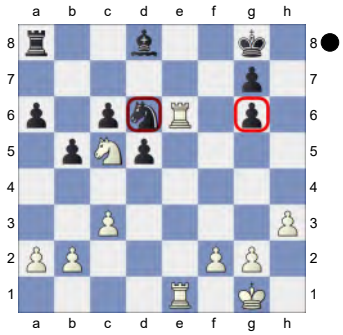
(Diagram)



26.Nd4 Nd6 27.Ne6 Qf7 28.Nc5 Prevents Ne4. **28...Bd8?** 5.94/23
[28...Rd8 2.73/19 is a better chance. 29.Qg3 h6 30.Nxa6 Ne4]
29.Qg3 White is clearly winning.
29...Qg6 30.Qxg6 hxg6



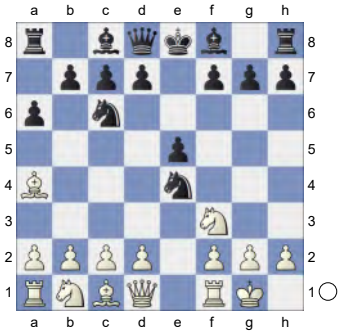
31.Re6



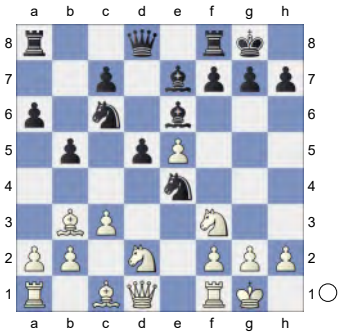
Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.45
1-0

59 **C83**
□ **Robson,Ray** **2699**
■ **Sevian,Samuel** **2698**
AI Cup Div 3 L rapid (7.3) 28.09.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

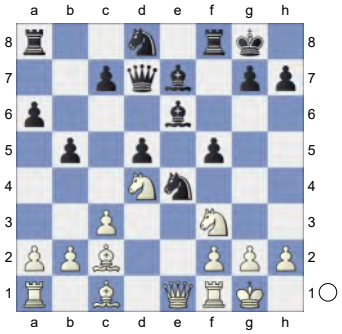


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0

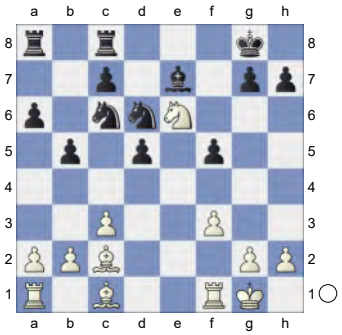


11.Bc2 f5 12.Nb3 12.exf6 injects fresh life into this line. 12.exf6 bringt frisches Leben in diese Variante. **12...Qd7 13.Qe1** 0.07/19
[13.Nbd4± 0.55/18 deserves consideration.]
[13.Nfd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 c5 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.f3 Ng5 17.a4 g6 18.Qe2 Qc6 19.Bxg5 Bxg5 20.f4 Be7 21.h3 Rad8 22.axb5 axb5 23.Kh2 c4 24.Qf3 Qb6 25.b3 d4 26.bxc4 bxc4 27.Rfb1 Qc5 Garcia Pantoja,R (2507)-Bobadilla Viera,J (2388) Rivera Huila 2023 ½-½ (57)]
13...Bf7N
[13...Kh8 14.Nfd4 Nxe5 15.f3 Bg8 16.fxe4 fxe4 17.Bf4 Nc4 18.Rb1 c5 19.Ne2 g5 20.Bg3 Rxf1+ 21.Qxf1 Rf8 22.Qe1 h5 Open Spanish Main line 12.Nb3-Open Spanish Main with 12.Nb3]
[13...a5 14.a4 bxa4 15.Nbd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Nc5 17.Ra2 Nb3 18.Nxe6 Qxe6 19.Rxa4 Nxc1 20.Qxc1 Qxe5 21.Re1 Qf6 22.Qa1 Rad8 23.Rxa5 Kh8 24.Qd1 c5 25.Qf3 g6 26.Ra7 Rf7 27.Rd1 Qb6 28.Ra2 4.♘f3 a6 5.a4 b6 (2726)-4.♘f3 bc4 5.♘c3 d6 6.e4 (2711) Chennai 2018 200 Traps In The Opening [Kozlov] ½-½ (31)]
14.Nbd4 Nd8 15.e6N -0.01/23
[Vorgänger: 15.b4 Bh5 0.65/18 *(15...a5=* 0.16/19 *)* 16.Bb2 0.00/17 *(16.a4±* 0.65/18 *Nc6 17.axb5 axb5 18.e6)* 16...Bxf3 0.41/20 *(16...Rc8=* 0.00/17 *)* 17.Nxf3± Ne6 18.Rd1 0.21/21 *(18.Nd4±* 0.59/20 is more appropriate.*)* 18...c6 19.a4 -0.32/19 *(19.Nd4±* 0.38/19 *)* 19...Qc7 0.53/19 *(19...bxa4!∓* -0.32/19 *20.Bxa4 a5)* 20.Nd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 ½-½ So,W (2765)-Anand,V (2773) Tata Steel India blitz 2018 (1)]
[15.a4± 0.31/19]
15...Bxe6=
[But not 15...Nxe6 16.Ne5 Qe8 17.Nxf5±]

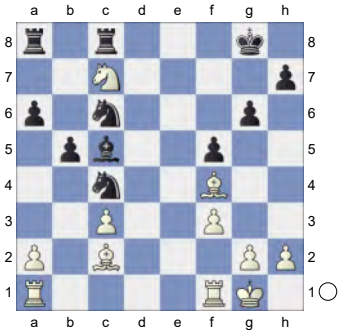
(Diagram)



16.Ne5 Qc8 17.f3! Nd6 18.Nec6 Nxc6 19.Qxe6+ Qxe6 20.Nxe6 Rfc8

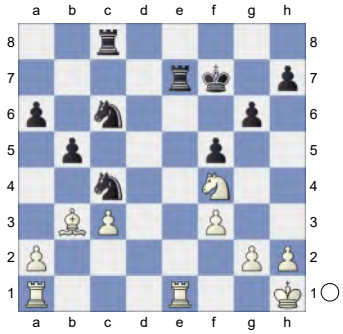


21.Nf4 d4 22.Nd5 dxc3 23.bxc3 g6 24.Bf4 Nc4 25.Nxc7 Bc5+

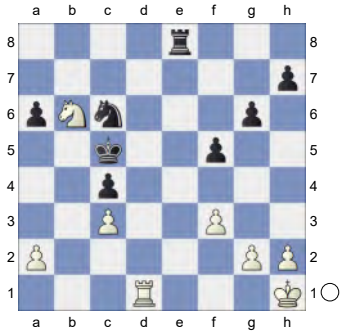


26.Kh1 Ra7 27.Ne6 -0.44/20
[27.Nd5= 0.02/21]
27...Be3 -0.01/20
[27...Bb6∓ -0.44/20 was preferrable.]
28.Rfe1
[28.Rae1!? Bxf4 29.Nxf4=]
28...Bxf4
[28...Bf2!? 29.Re2 Bh4=]
29.Nxf4 Re7 30.Bb3 Kf7

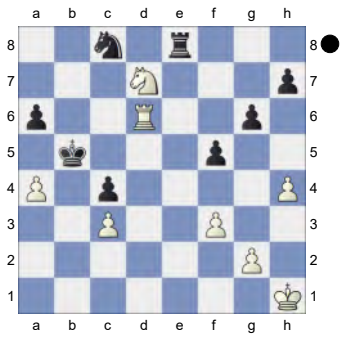
(Diagram)



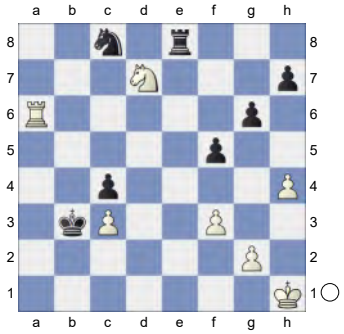
31.Rxe7+ -0.22/21
[⌓31.Nd5 0.12/20 Re5 32.Nb6]
31...Kxe7 32.Bxc4 bxc4 Endgame KRN-KRN **33.Nd5+ Kd6 34.Nb6 Re8 35.Rd1+! Kc5**



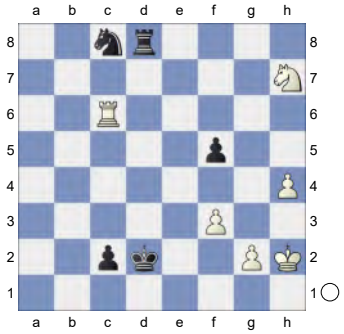
36.Nd7+ Kb5 37.h4 Na7 0.63/20
[37...Ka4= 0.07/23]
38.Rd6 -0.44/23
[38.Rb1+± 0.63/20 Kc6 39.Nb8+ Kd6 40.Rd1+ Kc7 41.Nxa6+ Kb7 42.Nc5+ Kc6 43.Na4]
38...Nc8∓ 39.a4+? -2.16/23
[White should try 39.Rd4!∓ -0.54/21]



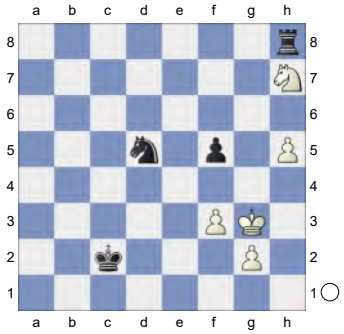
This move loses the game for White.
39...Kxa4-+ 40.Rxa6+ Kb3



41.Nf6 Rd8 aiming for ...Rd6.
[Wrong is 41...Re1+? 42.Kh2-+]
42.Nxh7 Kxc3
[And not 42...Rh8 43.Nf6∓]
43.Rxg6 Kd2 44.Rc6 c3 45.Kh2 c2



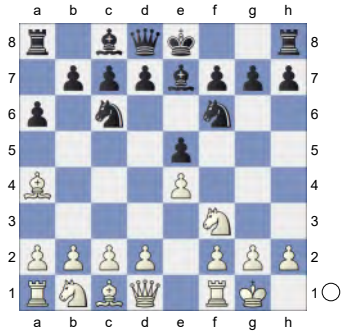
46.Kg3 Ne7 47.Rc5 Nd5 48.Rxc2+ Kxc2 49.h5 -8.01/24
[⌓49.Ng5 -4.31/24]
49...Rh8



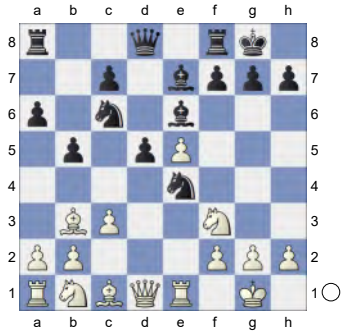
Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.10 (very precise)
0-1

60 **C83**
□ **Cvraman** **2616**
■ **Danylo03** **2642**
Rapid 06.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 10min
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7 Ernest Kocem (Poland) later changed his name to Ernst Kotzem when he took German citizenship. We have filed all his other games under Kotzem but left the ones of the EU Team Ch as a cross-reference, because he represented Poland in that event. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7**



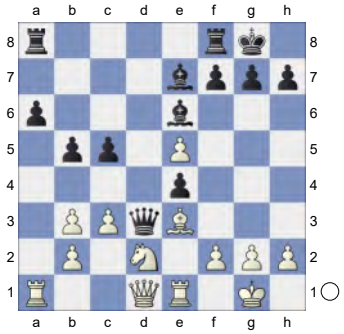
6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.d4 Nxe4 10.dxe5 Be6



11.Be3N
[11.Nd4 Nxe5 *(11...Qe8 12.Bc2 Rd8 13.a4 Qd7 14.axb5 axb5 15.f3 Nc5 16.b4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Na4 18.Bxa4 Ra8 19.Nc3 bxa4 20.Ba3 Qc6 21.Qd3 Qb7 22.b5 Bxa3 23.Rxa3 Rfb8 24.Rb1 g6 25.Rb4 c6*

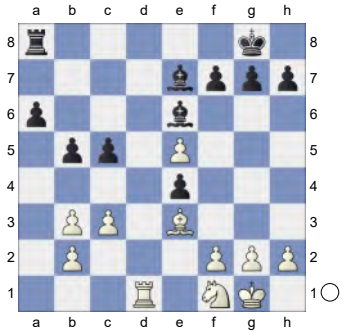
26.Nxa4 Wiech,G (2571)-Wohl,R (2686) Russian Women's Ch., Kazan 2001 Telechess CBM 89 [Sinka] 1-0 (58) *)* 12.f3 Bd6 13.fxe4 Bg4 14.Qc2 *(14.Qd2 Qh4 15.Qf2 Qxf2+ 16.Kxf2 Nd3+ 17.Kf1 Nxe1 18.Kxe1 dxe4 19.h3 Bg3+ 20.Kf1 Be6 21.Nd2 Bxb3 22.axb3 f5 23.b4 Be5 24.N2b3 f4 25.Bd2 h6 26.Be1 g5 27.Nc5 Bxd4 28.cxd4 e3* Wiech,G (2528)-4...Bf5 (2377) France 2007 URS-ch [FS 12/1979 p311] 1-0 (40) *)* 14...c5 15.Nxb5 axb5 16.Bxd5 Qh4 17.Rf1 Ra6 18.Na3 Nf3+ 19.gxf3 Bh3 20.Rf2 Bxh2+ 21.Kh1 Rg6 22.Bg5 Qh5 23.Bh4 Bf4 24.Rg1 Rh6 0-1 (24) Djuric,L-Kotzem, E corr ICCF 1973 UltraCorr3a [Kocem]]

11...Na5 12.Nbd2 Nxb3 13.axb3 The position is equal. **13...c5** Prevents Nd4. **14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Nd2 Qd3**

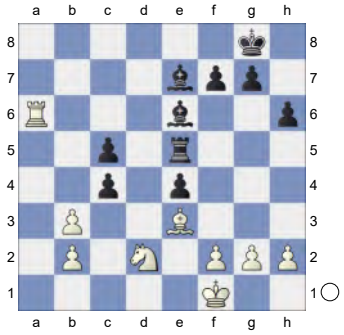


16.Qb1
[16.Bf4!?]
16...Bf5 17.Rd1 -0.39/19
[17.Qxd3= -0.01/19 feels stronger. exd3 18.Ra5]
17...Rfd8 18.Nf1 Qxd1 19.Qxd1 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 Be6

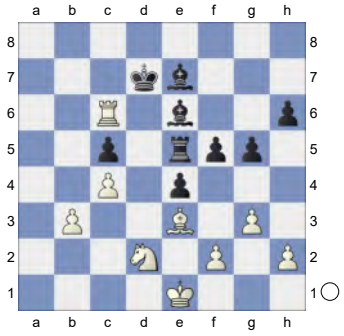
(Diagram)



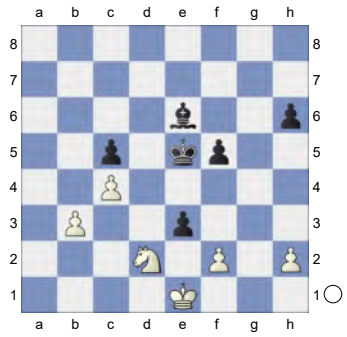
21.Nd2 Rd8 0.88/22
[21...Bd5= -0.01/22]
22.Ra1± Rd5 23.Rxa6 Hoping for Ra8+. **23...h6 24.Kf1** 0.48/22
[24.c4± 1.25/23 bxc4 25.bxc4 Rxe5 26.Ra5]
24...Rxe5± 25.c4 bxc4



26.bxc4 g5 27.Rc6 f5 ...f4 is the strong threat. **28.g3** Prevents f4. And now b4! would win.
[28.b4 is more complex. f4 29.Bxc5 e3 30.fxe3 fxe3 31.Nf3]
28...Kf7 0.84/23
[28...Bf8= 0.30/21 keeps the balance.]
29.Ke1!± Ke8 30.b3 Kd7

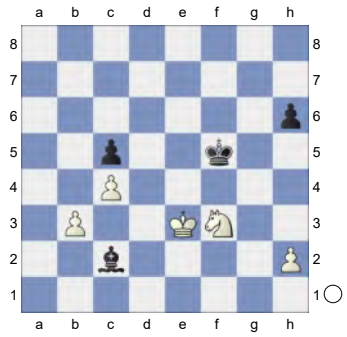


31.Ra6 Bd6 32.Bf4 0.00/25 **gxf4 33.gxf4 e3 34.Rxd6+ Kxd6 35.fxe5+ Kxe5**

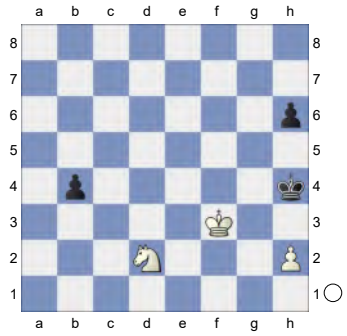


36.fxe3∓ Endgame KB-KN **36...f4 37.Kf2 Bf5 38.Kf3 fxe3 39.Kxe3 Bc2 40.Nf3+ Kf5?** 4.97/31

[40...Kd6= 0.00/28]

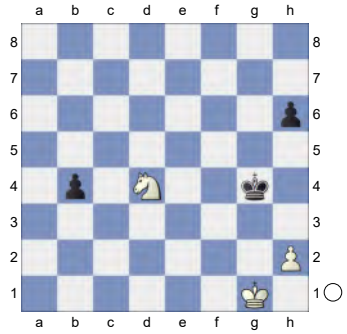


White leaves nothing to chance now. **41.b4!+- Bb3 42.Nd2 Bxc4 43.Nxc4** Intending b5 and mate. **43...cxb4** KN-KPP **44.Kf3** Black must now prevent Na5. **44...Kg5 45.Nd2 Kh4**

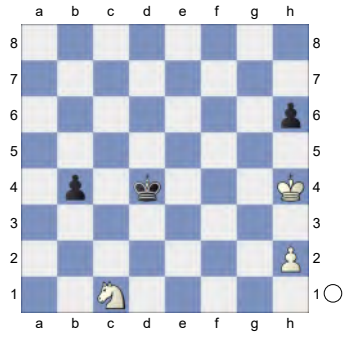


46.Kg2 Kg4 47.Nb3 Kf4 48.Kf2 Kg4 49.Nd4 Kh3 50.Kg1 Kg4

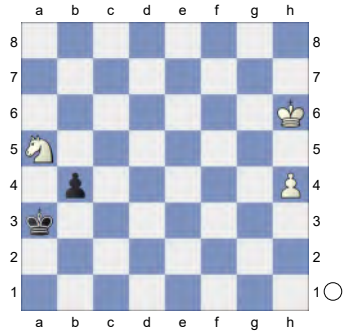
(Diagram)



51.Kg2 Kf4 52.Kh3 Ke4 53.Nb3 Kd3 54.Kh4 Kc4 55.Nc1 White wants to mate with Kh5. **55...Kd4**



56.Kh5 Ke3 57.Kxh6 KN-KP **57...Kd2 58.Nb3+ Kc3 59.Na5 Kb2 60.h4 Ka3**

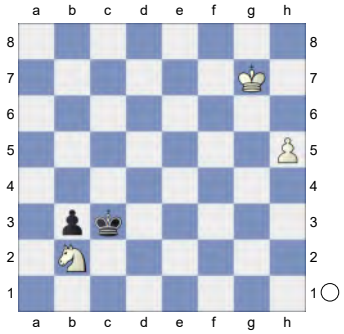


61.h5 Ka4 62.Nc4 b3 63.Kg7 10.32/28

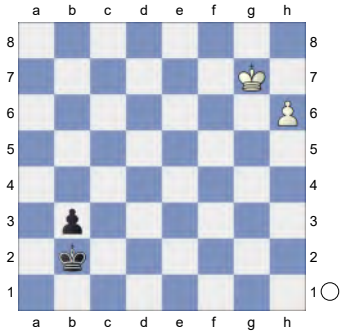
[⌓63.Kg5 #15/27 Kb4 64.Nd2 b2 65.h6 Kc3 66.Nb1+ Kc2 67.h7! Kxb1 68.h8Q]

63...Kb4 64.Nb2 White threatens Nd1 and mate. **64...Kc3**

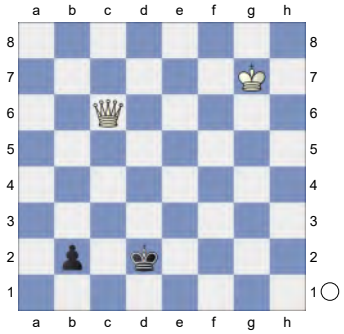
(Diagram)



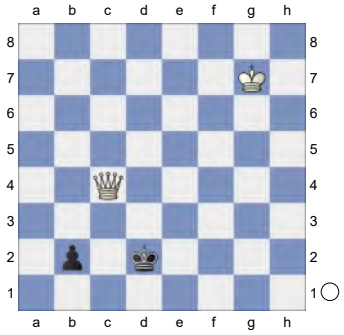
65.h6! Kxb2



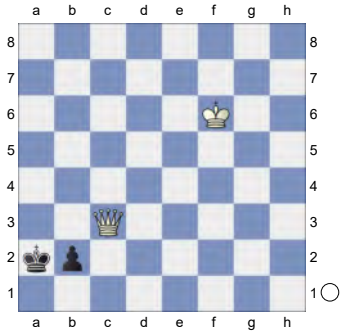
KP-KP **66.h7 Kc2 67.h8Q b2 68.Qc8+ Kd2 69.Qb7 Kc1 70.Qc6+ Kd2**



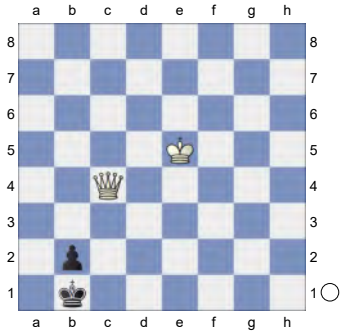
71.Qb5 Kc1 72.Qc4+ Kd2



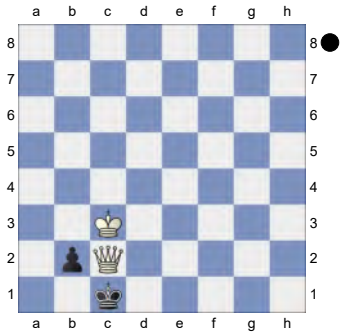
73.Qb3! Kc1 74.Qc3+ Kb1 75.Kf6 Ka2



76.Qa5+ Kb3 77.Qb5+ Ka2 78.Qa4+ Kb1 79.Ke5 Kd4 would kill now. **79...Kc1 80.Qc4+** White mates. **80...Kb1**



81.Kd4 Ka1 82.Qa4+ Kb1 83.Kc3 Kc1 84.Qc2#

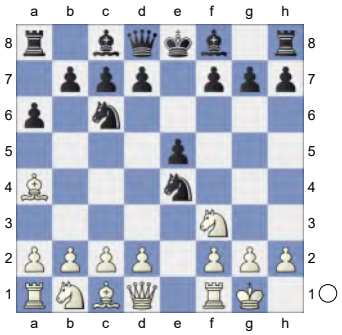


Weighted Error Value: White=0.32/ Black=0.39

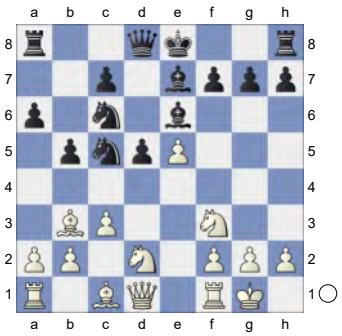
1-0

61 **C83**
□ **Autokillerzero** **2768**
■ **Nikitosikbot** **2869**
Rapid 22.04.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
Mikhalevski, V: 'As I promised last month I include the following game in the current update.' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

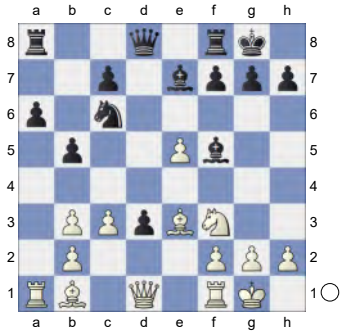


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

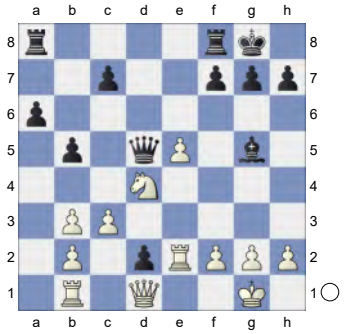


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3! 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.Be3 0-0**

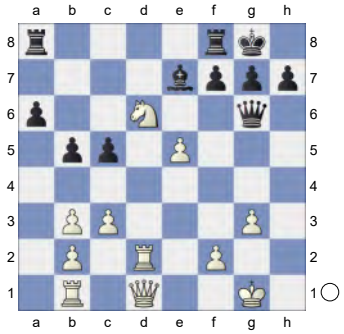
(Diagram)



16.Bd4 Qd5!
[16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 *(17.cxd4 c5=)* 17...Bg6 18.b4± *(18.Bxd3 Bxd3 19.Nc6 Qe8±)*]
17.Re1 d2 18.Re2 Bxb1 19.Rxb1 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bg5!



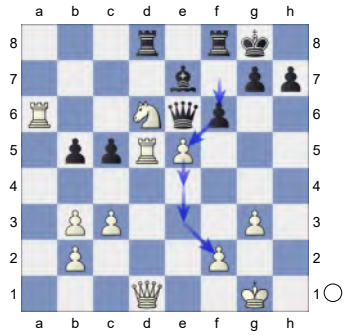
21.g3 c5 22.Nf5 Qd3 23.Nd6 Strongly threatening f4. **23...Qg6 24.h4 Bxh4 25.Rxd2 Be7**



26.Rd5
[26.Qe1 Qe6 27.Qe3 Bxd6 28.Rxd6 Qxb3 29.Qxc5 Qc2 30.Ra1 Bjerre,J (2438)-Kushagra,M (2283) Porto Carras 2018 [Petronijevic, Zoran]]
26...Rad8N 1.17/21

[26...f6± 0.57/20 27.e6 f5 28.Qd3 Qxe6 29.Nxf5 Bf6 *(29...Rad8 30.Qe3 Qxe3 31.Nxe3 Rxd5 32.Nxd5 Bd8 33.f4 Kf7 34.Kg2 Re8 35.Kf3 Re6 36.g4 Rd6 37.Rd1 h6 38.f5 g6 39.fxg6+ Kg7 40.Ke4 Bg5 41.Ke5 Rc6 42.Rf1 Rxg6 43.Nc7 Be7 44.Ne6+* Caruana,F (2781)-Gelfand,B (2761) Zürich SUI 2014 [Smerdon, David] ½-½ (58) *Kg8 45.Rf4 h5 46.gxh5 Rg2 47.h6 Rxb2 48.Rg4+ Kh8 49.Nf4 Kh7 50.Rg7+ Kxh6 51.Rxe7 Rxb3 52.Nd5 Rb1 53.Kd6 c4 54.Ra7 Ra1 55.Kc5 Kg5 56.Kb6 Rd1 57.Nb4 Rc1 58.Na2* 1-0 (58) Caruana,F (2767)-L'Ami,E (2611) Reykjavik ISL 2012 [Mikhalevski, V]*)* 30.Rd1 Rad8 31.Ne3 *(31.Qe3 Qxe3 32.Nxe3 Rxd5 33.Nxd5 b4 34.Ra1 Rb8 35.cxb4 Bxb2 36.Ra2 Bd4 37.Rxa6 Kf7 38.bxc5 Rxb3 39.c6 Rxg3+ 40.Kf1 Rf3 41.Ra2 Ke6 42.Nc7+ Kf7 43.Nb5 Be5 44.c7 Bxc7 45.Nxc7 g5* Bruzon Batista,L (2689)-Mikhalevski,V (2552) Arlington 2013 CBM 183 [Marin,Mihail] 1-0 (60)*)* 31...Bg5 32.Rxd8 Rxd8 33.Nd5 Rf8 34.Nc7 Qxb3 35.Qe2 Qf7 36.Nxa6 c4 37.Nc5 Re8 38.Ne4 Chapter-Game Game 3 (38)]

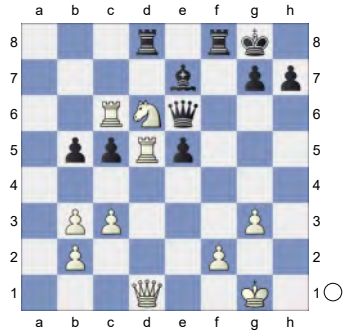
27.Ra1± Qe6 28.Rxa6 f6



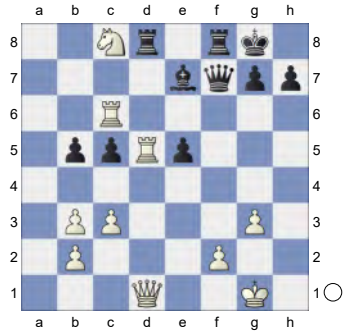
29.Rc6! &Bianco is much more active.

[29.Rxc5 fxe5 30.Rxb5 *(30.Qd5 Qxd5 31.Rxd5 Rf6∓)* 30...Rxd6 31.Rxd6 Bxd6∓]

29...fxe5



30.Nc8! Qf7



31.Nxe7+ Qxe7 32.Qd2 b4 1.73/23

[32...e4± 1.03/22 might work better.]

33.Rcxc5+- Rde8 2.34/23

[⌓33...Qxc5 1.72/21 34.Rxd8 Rxd8 35.Qxd8+ Kf7]

34.Rb5 And now Rd7 would win.

[34.cxb4?! e4±]

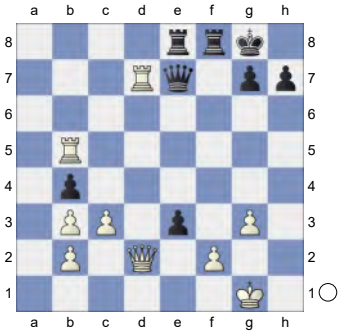
34...e4 35.Rd7

[Much weaker is 35.cxb4?! e3 36.fxe3 *(36.Qxe3 Qxe3 37.fxe3 Rxe3=)* 36...Qxe3+ 37.Qxe3 Rxe3=]

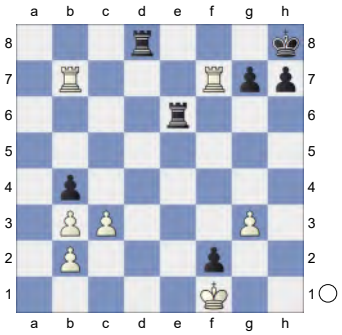
[35.Rxb4 Qf7 36.Kh2 Qxf2+ 37.Qxf2 Rxf2+ 38.Kg1 e3∓]

35...e3

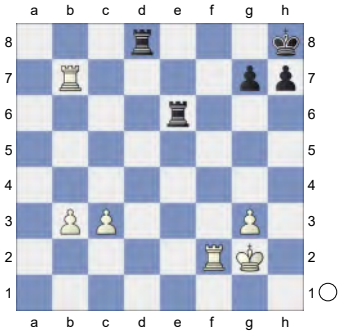
(Diagram)



36.Qd5+ Qe6 37.Rbb7 Kh8 38.Qxe6 exf2+ 39.Kf1 Rxe6± Endgame KRR-KRR **40.Rf7 Rd8**

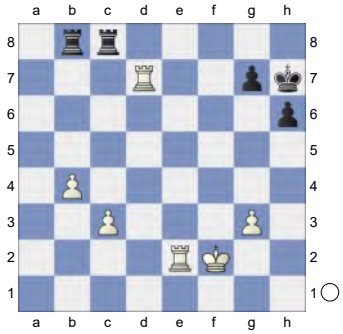


41.Kxf2
[Much less strong is 41.Rxg7 Rd2 42.Rxh7+ Kg8 43.Rhg7+ Kh8±]
41...bxc3 42.bxc3 Rd2+ 43.Kf1 Rd1+ 1.73/27
[43...h5± 1.39/25]
44.Kg2+- Rd2+ 45.Rf2 Rd8

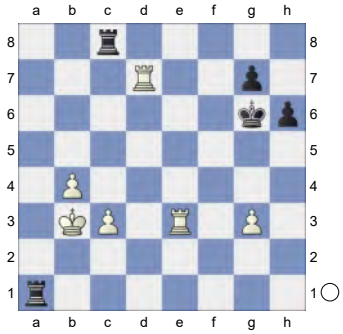


Inhibits Rb8. **46.Rd7!! Rb8 47.Rfd2 Ree8** Inhibits Rd8. **48.b4 h6 49.Kf2 Kh7 50.Re2** Rxe8 is the strong threat. **50...Rec8**

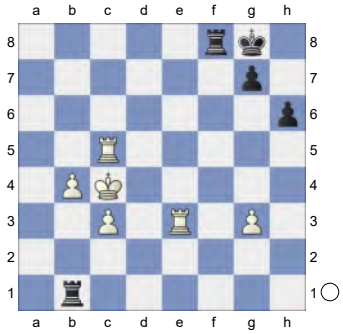
(Diagram)



51.Re3 Kg6 2.07/21
[51...h5± 1.47/22 52.Rd5 g6]
52.Ke2 Ra8 53.Kd3 Ra1 Hoping for ... Rd1+. **54.Kc2** Prevents Rd1. **54...Ra2+ 55.Kb3 Ra1**

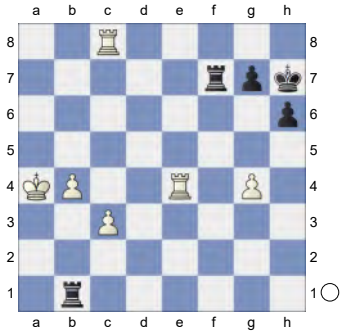


56.Kb2 Rca8 3.16/21
[⌓56...Rg1 2.11/19 57.Rb7 Kf6]
57.Rd5 Kf7 2.54/21
[⌓57...Kh7 1.94/18 58.b5 R8a2+ 59.Kb3 Ra8]
58.Kb3 Rb1+ 59.Kc4 Kg8 60.Rc5 Rf8



61.Re4 Kh7 62.g4 Rf3 63.Kb5 Rb3 64.Ka4 Rb1 65.Rc8 Rf7

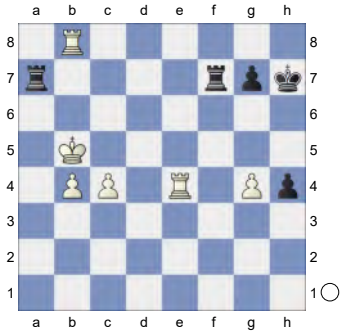
(Diagram)



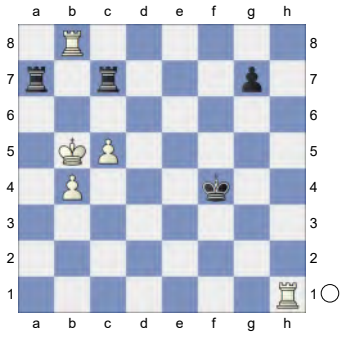
66.Ka5 Ra1+ 67.Kb6 Ra4 68.Kb5 Raa7 5.74/21

[68...Ra3 3.84/22 was necessary. 69.c4 Rb7+ 70.Kc5 Rb3]

69.Rb8 h5 70.c4 h4

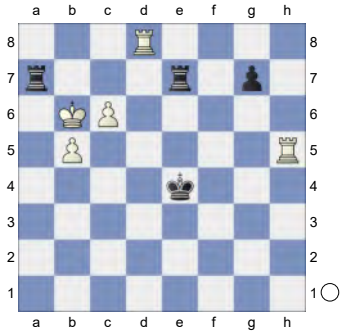


71.g5 h3 72.Rh4+ Kg6 73.Rxh3 Kxg5 74.Rh1 Rfc7 75.c5 Kf4



76.c6 Ke3 77.Kb6 Kd2 78.b5 Kd3 79.Rd8+ Ke4 80.Rh5 Re7

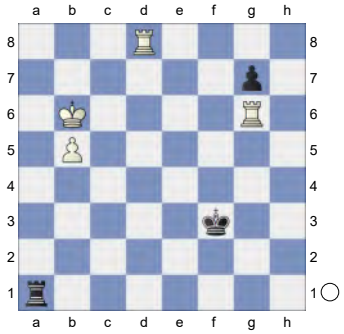
(Diagram)



81.Rc5 Kf3 82.c7 Raxc7 83.Rxc7 Re6+ 84.Rc6 Re1 85.Rg6 14.06/24

[⌓85.Rf8+ #16/21 Kg4 86.Rg6+ Kh5 87.Rxg7 Kh6 88.Rg3 Kh7 89.Rf5 Rh1 90.Kc5]

85...Ra1

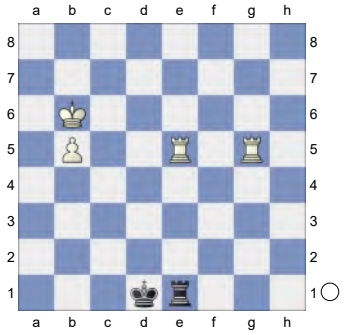


86.Rxg7 Threatening mate with Re8.

86...Rb1 87.Rd5 19.39/22

[⌓87.Re8 #19/24 Kf4 88.Rf7+ Kg5 89.Rg8+ Kh6 90.Kc6 Rh1 91.b6 Rc1+ 92.Kd7]

87...Ra1 88.Rgg5 Re1 89.Rdf5+ Ke2 90.Re5+ Kd1



91.Rxe1+ Kxe1 KR-K **92.Rg2 Kd1 93.Kb7** 8.66/5

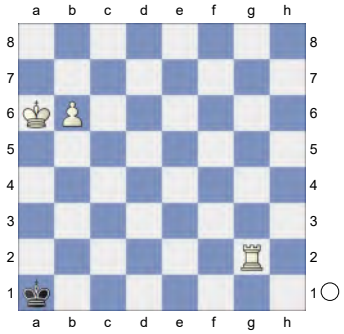
[⌓93.Ka6 #7/16 Ke1 94.b6 Kf1

95.Rb2 Kg1 96.b7 Kf1 97.b8Q Ke1 98.Qg3+ Kf1 99.Qf2#]

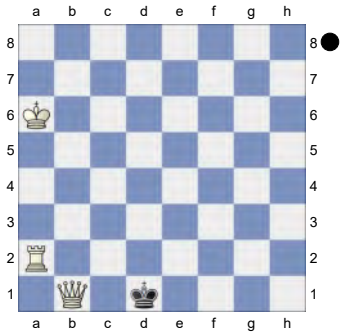
93...Kc1 94.Ka6 14.79/5

[⌓94.Kc6 #6/14 Kd1 95.b6 Kc1 96.b7 Kd1 97.b8Q Kc1 98.Qf4+ Kd1 99.Qf1#]

94...Kb1 95.b6 White threatens b7 and mate. **95...Ka1**



96.b7 White mates. **96...Kb1 97.b8Q+ Kc1 98.Ra2 Kd1 99.Qb1#**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.14 (very precise)

1-0

62 **C84**

□ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2732**

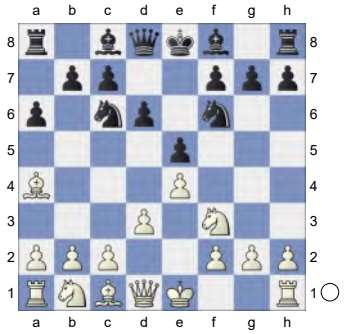
■ **Chigaev,Maksim** **2622**

Titled Tuesday intern op 09th Jan Early b..

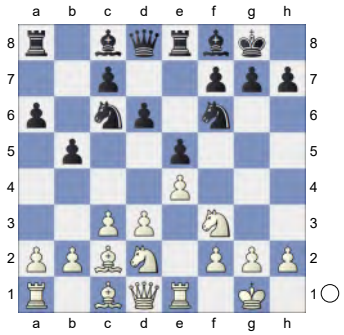
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 d6



6.c3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Re8 9.Nbd2 b5 10.Bc2 Bf8



11.Nf1 h6 12.Ng3 d5 13.exd5N

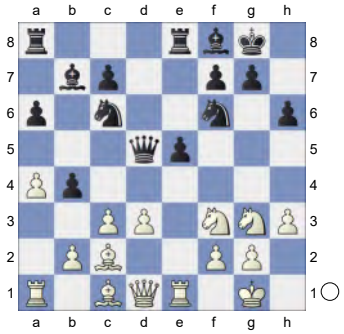
[13.Qe2 Be6 14.h3

A) 14...Qd7 15.Nh4 *(15.Rd1 d4 16.Bd2 Bc5 17.Nh2 a5 18.Qf3 Kh7 19.Ne2 a4 20.a3 dxc3 21.Bxc3 Nd4 22.Nxd4 Bxd4 23.Qe2 Ra6 24.Nf3 Bxh3 25.gxh3 Qxh3 26.Nh2 Nh5 27.Kh1 Bxf2 28.Rg1 Bxg1 29.Rxg1 Ng3+* Eljanov,P (2661)-Amin,B (2704) Brest 2019 CBM 190 Extra [ChessBase II] 0-1 (36)*)* 15...d4 16.Nhf5 dxc3 17.bxc3 b4 18.Ba4 bxc3 19.Be3 Reb8 20.Rac1 Rb2 21.Qf3 Rxa2 22.Bxc6 Qxc6 23.Nxh6+ Kh7 24.Nhf5 g6 25.Bg5 Nd7 26.d4 exd4 27.Nxd4 Qc4 28.Ngf5 Bxf5 29.exf5 Juilfs,G (2582)-Gallardo Garcia,A (2696) Moscow 2021 CBM 03 [Naiditsch, Arkadij; Petrosian,Arshak] 0-1 (43);

B) 14...d4 15.cxd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4

Qxd4 17.Qf3 Nd7 18.Ne2 Qc5 19.Nc3 Rad8 20.a3 g6 21.Be3 Qe7 22.b4 c5 23.Reb1 Rc8 24.Bd2 Red8 25.Bb3 Bxb3 26.Rxb3 Qe6 27.Rbb1 Kg7 Nakamura,H (2764)-Svidler,P (2732) Baku 2014 CBM 163 [Marin, Mihail] ½-½ (32)]

13...Qxd5 14.h3 Bb7 15.a4 b4



16.a5 Rad8

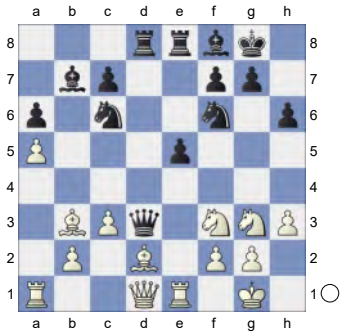
[16...Nxa5? 17.c4 Nxc4 18.dxc4 Qxc4 19.Bb3+- *(19.Nxe5 Qc5±)*]

17.Bd2 b3 0.96/22

[17...Nxa5 18.c4 Nxc4 19.dxc4 Qxc4 20.Bb3± *(20.Nxe5 Qd4±)*]

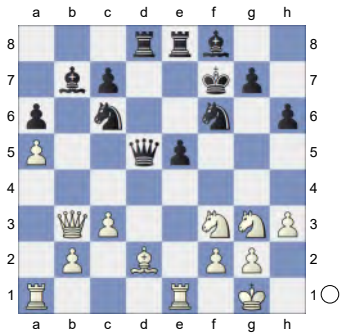
[17...Ba8= 0.07/17 remains equal.]

18.Bxb3± Qxd3



19.Bxf7+! Kxf7 20.Qb3+ Qd5

(Diagram)



21.Qxb7 c4! is the strong threat. **21...e4 22.Nh2**

[22.Qxc7+? Rd7 23.c4 Qxc4-+]

22...Qxd2 0.92/20

[22...Nb4± 0.51/19 23.Qxd5+ *(23.Qxc7+? Rd7∓)* 23...Rxd5]

23.Qxc6 e3 24.fxe3 Rxe3 1.78/21

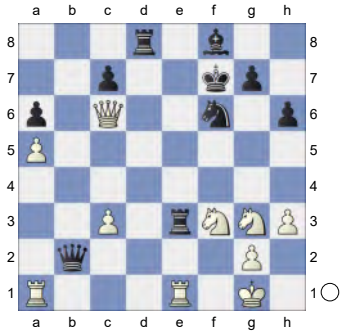
[24...Qxb2± 0.89/19 25.Nf3 *(25.Qxa6 Qxc3 26.Nf3 Bc5±; 25.Qxc7+ Kg8±)* 25...Nd5]

25.Nf3+- Really sharp!

[25.Qxc7+ Kg6 26.Rxe3 Qxe3+ 27.Kh1 Rd3±]

25...Qxb2 4.20/21

[25...Qd3 1.69/22 26.Qxc7+ *(26.Ne5+ Rxe5 27.Rxe5 Bd6∓)* 26...Kg8]



26.Qxc7+

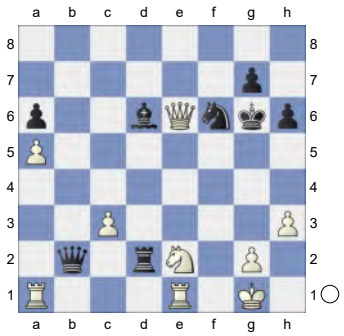
[26.Rxe3 Qxa1+ 27.Kh2 *(27.Re1 Qxa5 28.Qe6+ Kg6=)* 27...Bd6±]

26...Rd7 27.Ne5+ Rxe5 28.Qxe5 Rd2 5.40/19

[28...Re7 3.49/21 was worth a try. 29.Qd4 *(29.Qf5 Qxc3 30.Kf2*

Rxe1±) 29...Qb5]

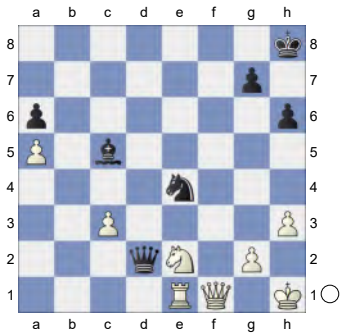
29.Qe6+ Kg6 30.Ne2 Strongly threatening Rab1. **30...Bd6**



31.Rad1 Kh7 32.Qf5+ Kh8 33.Rxd2? 0.95/21

[33.Kh1+- 2.79/21]

33...Qxd2± 34.Qf1 Bc5+ 35.Kh1 Hoping for Rd1. **35...Ne4**



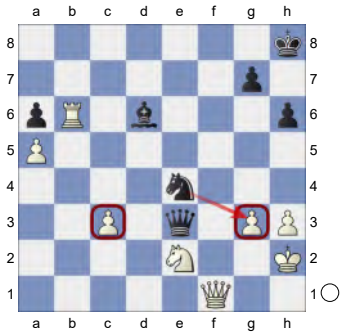
36.Rb1 Rb8+ would kill now. **36...Nf2+** 1.58/27

[⌓36...Bd6 0.87/26]

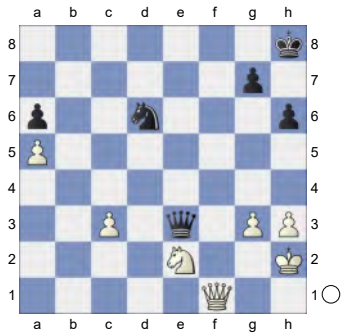
37.Kh2 And now Rb8+ would win. **37...Bd6+ 38.g3 Qe3 39.Rb6** 0.79/23

[39.c4+- 1.92/21 is more deadly.]

39...Ne4



40.Rxd6! 0.33/22 **Nxd6±**



41.Qf8+ Kh7 42.Qf1 Ne4 43.h4

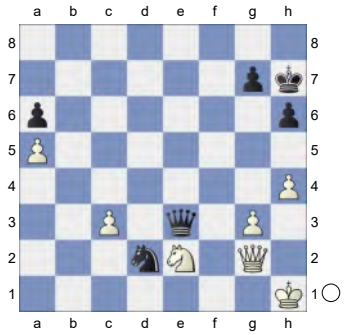
[43.Qf5+ seems wilder. Kg8 44.Qc8+ Kh7 45.Qf5+]

43...Nd2 44.Qg2

[44.Qf5+ looks sharper. Kh8 45.Qc8+ Kh7 46.Qf5+]

44...Nf3+ 45.Kh1 Nd2

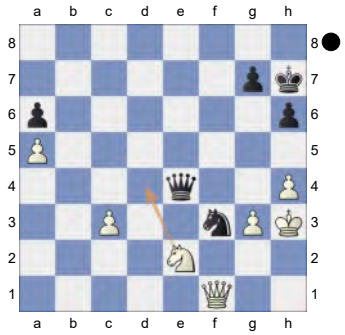
[45...Ne1!? 46.Qf1 Qe4+ 47.Kg1 Nf3+ 48.Kf2 Nd2=]



46.Kh2 Nf3+ 47.Kh1 Ne1 48.Qf1 Qe4+ 49.Kh2? -5.28/27

[49.Kg1!= -0.01/29 Nf3+ 50.Kf2]

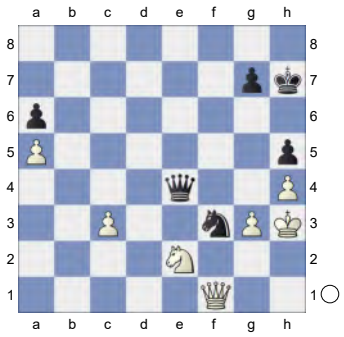
49...Nf3+-+ 50.Kh3



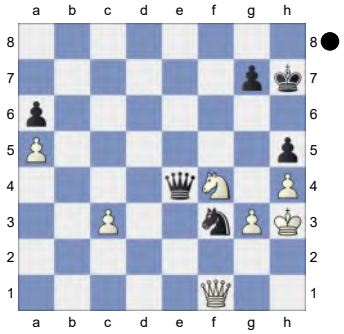
h5? 0.01/25

[50...Qxe2!-+ -4.78/25 51.Qxe2

(51.Qb1+ Kg8) 51...Ng1+ 52.Kg4 Nxe2]



51.Nf4

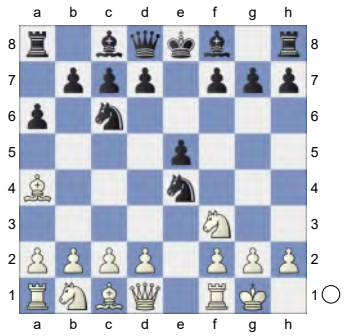


Quite a comeback for White.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.38. Loss on time!?
1-0

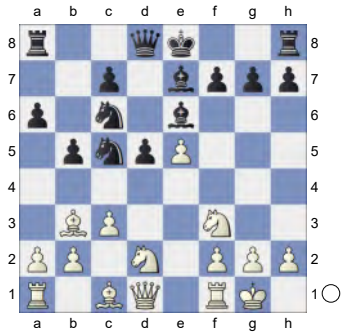
63 **C80**
□ **Erigaisi,Arjun Kumar** **2710**
■ **Sindarov,Javokhir** **2659**
E World Cup 2023 (4.2) 10.08.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

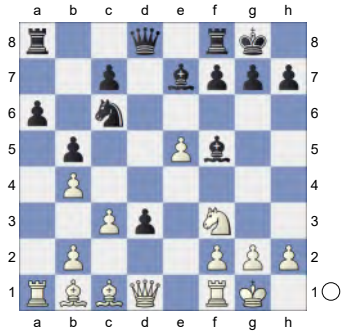
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

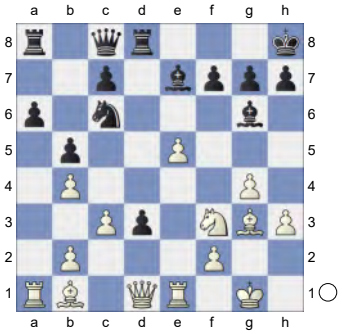


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.b4 0-0**

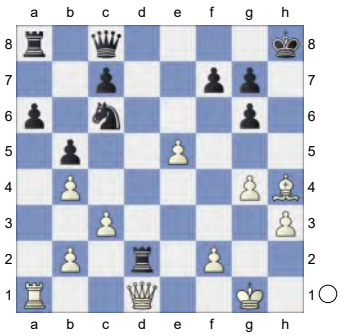


16.Bf4 Qd7 17.h3 Rfd8 18.g4 Bg6 19.Bg3 Kh8 0.59/20
[19...a5= -0.05/18 20.bxa5 b4]
[19...h5 20.Re1 d2 Rengifo Blancas, R Radebeul GER 2017 Inf 68 [Adly, Ahmed]]
20.Re1!± Qc8
[Don't do 20...d2 21.Re2±]

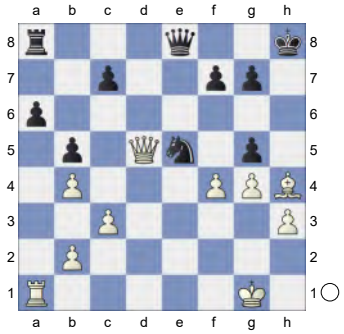
(Diagram)



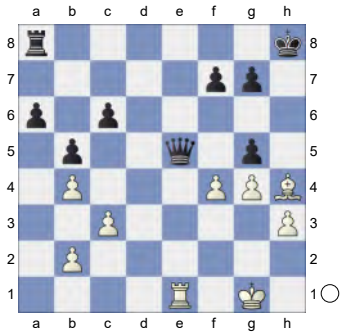
21.Nh4N
[21.Nd2 a5 22.bxa5 Rxa5 23.Rxa5 Nxa5 24.f4 f5 25.exf6 Bxf6 26.Ba2 Nc4 27.Bxc4 bxc4 28.g5 Qxh3 29.Qf3 Bh5 30.Qf2 Be2 31.gxf6 gxf6 32.Qg2 Qe6 33.Kh2 Rg8 34.Ra1 Rg6 35.Qe4 Qxe4 Hinteregger,A (2752)-Deslandes,P (2808) USSR 2016 Telechess CBM 89 [Runting; Marin] ½-½ (46) 36.Nxe4 Bf3 37.Nf2 d2 38.Ra7 Rh6+ 39.Bh4 d1Q 40.Nxd1 Bxd1 41.Kg3 Kg8 42.f5 Bc2 43.Rxc7 Bd3 44.Rc5 Rh5 45.Bxf6 Rxf5 46.Rxf5 ½-½ (46) Harikrishna,P (2752)-Caruana,F (2808) Baku 2016 CI1-130 [Shankland, Samuel L]]
21...Bxh4 22.Bxh4 d2 0.98/23
[22...Rd5= 0.11/21 remains equal.]
23.Re2± Rd5 24.Bxg6 hxg6 25.Rxd2 Rxd2



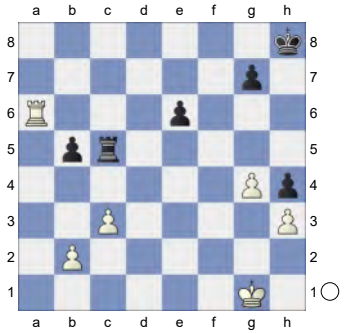
26.Qxd2 Nxe5 ...Nf3+ is the strong threat. **27.Qd5** Prevents Nf3+. **27...Qe8 28.f4** 0.39/22 &Bianco is more active.
[28.Qe4± 0.91/21]
28...g5 0.89/25



29.Re1! c6 30.Qxe5 Qxe5

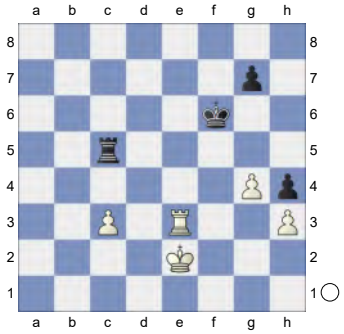


31.fxe5 gxh4± Endgame KR-KR
32.Ra1 Rc8 33.Rxa6 c5 34.bxc5 Rxc5 35.e6 fxe6

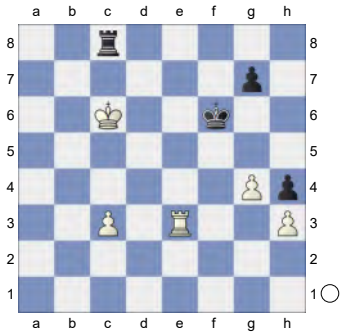


36.Rxe6 Threatens to win with Kf2.
36...b4 1.08/29
[36...Rd5± 0.65/29]
37.Re3± bxc3 38.bxc3 Kh7 39.Kf2 Kg6 40.Ke2 Kf6 1.79/29
[40...Rc8± 1.27/29 41.Rf3 Kh6]

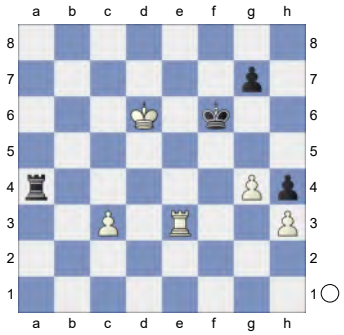
(Diagram)



41.Kd3+- Rd5+ 42.Kc4 Rd8 43.Kc5 Rc8+ 44.Kd5 Rd8+ 45.Kc6 Rc8+

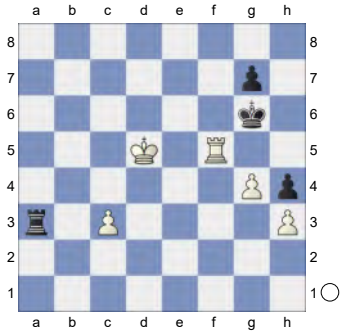


46.Kd7! Rc4 0.85/28
[46...Rc5+- 1.96/32 47.Rf3+ Kg5]
47.Kd6± Ra4? 3.39/27
[47...Rc8 1.86/30 48.Rf3+ Kg5]

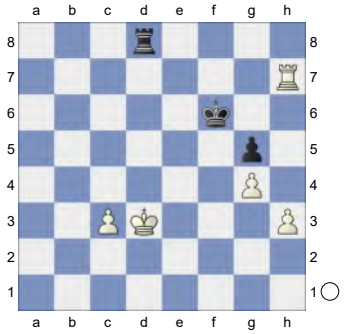


48.Rf3+!+- Kg5 49.Kd5 Ra3 50.Rf5+ Kg6

(Diagram)

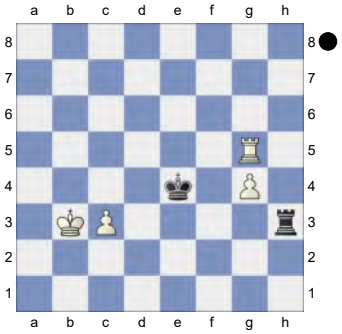


51.Kd4 Ra4+ 4.63/27
[51...Ra1 2.93/28 was called for. 52.Rh5 Rd1+ 53.Ke3 Rc1]
52.Kd3 2.37/29
[⌓52.c4 4.63/27 Rb4 53.Rb5]
52...Ra8 53.Rh5 Kf6 2.49/25
[⌓53...Rd8+ 1.84/28 54.Kc2 Rc8 55.Rxh4 Kg5]
54.Rxh4 And now c4 would win.
54...g5? 4.08/31
[54...Rd8+ 2.36/27 55.Kc2 Rc8]
55.Rh7 2.40/30
[⌓55.Rh6+ 4.08/31 Ke5 56.Rh5]
55...Rd8+



56.Kc2 Black must now prevent c4.
56...Ke5 3.86/29
[⌓56...Rc8 2.39/29 57.Rh6+ Ke5]
57.Rf7 Hoping for Rf5+. **57...Ke4** 5.14/30
[⌓57...Ke6 3.64/28 58.Rf5 Rh8]
58.Rf5 Rh8 59.Rxg5 Rxh3 60.Kb3

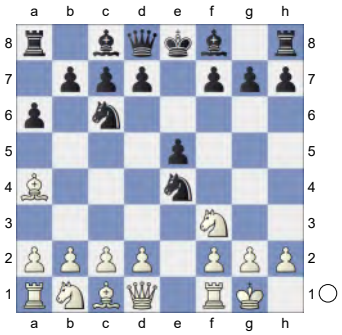
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.31
1-0

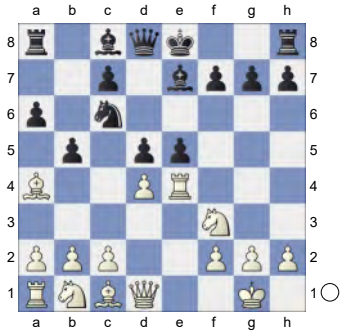
64 **C80**
☐ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2766**
■ **Yu,Yangyi** **2729**
Airthings Masters Div 2 W (5.3) 10.02.23
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

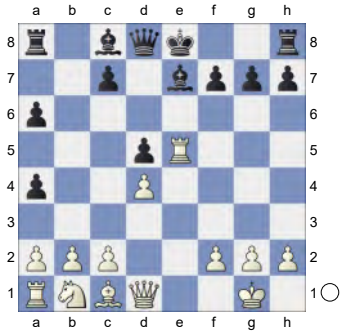


6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 d5

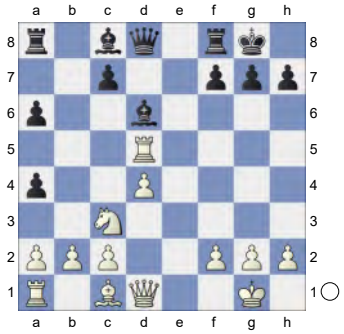
(Diagram)



9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 Strongly threatening Bb3. White is slightly better.
10...bxa4



11.Nc3 0-0 12.Re1 0.12/19
[12.Rxd5± 0.62/19 Bd6



A) 13.Bg5 Qd7 *(13...f6 14.Bf4 Be6 15.Bxd6 cxd6 16.Rh5 a3 17.bxa3 g6 18.Rh4 f5 19.g3 Rc8 20.d5 Bf7 21.Ne2 g5 22.Rb4 Bh5 23.Qd2 Qf6 24.Re1 Rfe8 25.Nd4 Rxe1+ 26.Qxe1 a5 27.Rb7 Re8 28.Ne6* Quesada Perez,L (2520)-Del Castilho,M (2182) San Salvador 2023 ½-½ (38) *)* 14.Bf4 a3 15.Bxd6 cxd6 16.Rb1 Qc6 17.Rg5 axb2 18.Nd5 Ra7 19.Rxb2 f5 20.Nf4

Re7 21.h4 Rfe8 22.Qd2 Qe4 23.Rb3 Qe1+ 24.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 25.Kh2 R1e4 26.Nh5 Rxh4+ 27.Kg3 Rg4+ Theis,B (2620)-6.♘f3 ♘ c6 7.0-0 e5_64261 (2545) ChessPub Guide 2023 03 d5 and e6: model game [John Watson] 1-0 (63);

B) 13.Bf4!]

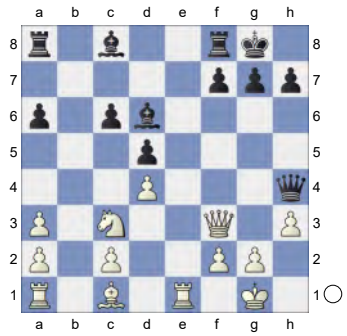
12...Bd6 13.h3N

[13.Nxd5!? Bxh2+ 14.Kxh2 Qxd5 15.Re5=]

[13.Qh5 a3 *(13...c6)* 14.Nxd5 axb2 15.Bxb2 Rb8 16.Rab1 Re8 *(16...Be6 17.c4 g6 18.Qe2 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Bb4 20.Rec1 Qxd5 21.Qxa6 Bd6 22.h3 Ra8 23.Qd3 Rxa2* The Be7 Spanish-Line Theoretical Improve*)* 17.Ne3 Bf4 18.d5 Rb4 19.c4 Bxe3 20.Rxe3 Rxe3 21.fxe3 Rxc4 22.Bd4 c5 23.Ba1 f6 24.h3 Qe7 25.Qf3 h6 26.Re1 Re4 27.Kf2 Bd7 The Be7 Spanish-Line 108: Đ¡aruana-Carlsen (68)]

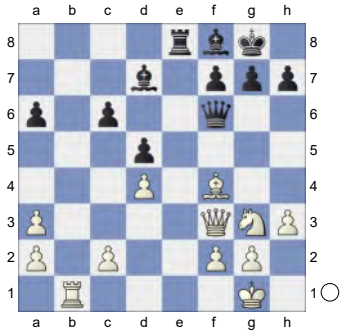
13...a3 14.bxa3 c6 15.Qf3 Qh4 0.68/19

[15...Qa5= 0.11/18]



Inhibits Bf4. **16.Ne2 Re8 17.Bf4 Bf8 18.Ng3** Inhibits Bf5. **18...Bd7 19.Rxe8 Rxe8 20.Rb1 Qf6**

(Diagram)

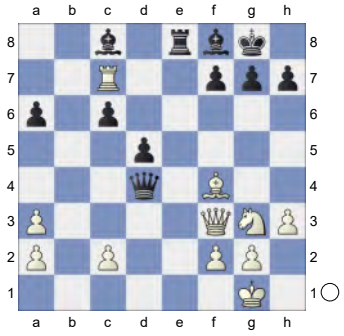


21.Rb7 Bc8 0.72/21

[21...Re7± 0.39/21 is superior. 22.Be5 Qxf3 23.gxf3 f6]

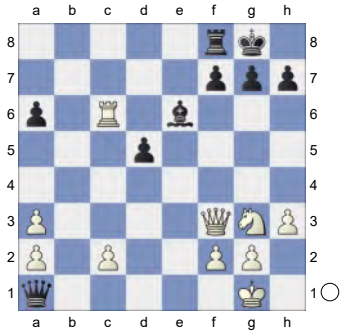
22.Rc7± &Bianco is more active.

22...Qxd4



23.Bd6! Be6 24.Bxf8 Dancing on a razor blade. **24...Rxf8 25.Rxc6 Qa1+** 0.89/22

[25...g6± 0.40/20]



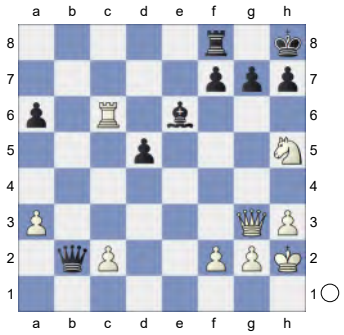
26.Kh2 Qxa2 1.17/20

[Black should try 26...Qe5 0.81/20]

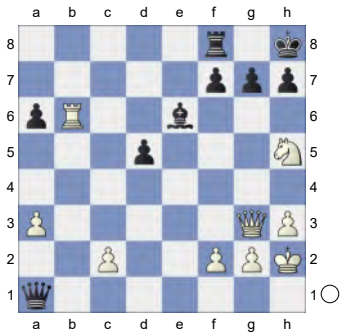
27.Nh5

[Don't play 27.Rxa6?! Qxc2 28.Nh5 Qc7+ 29.Qf4 Qxf4+ 30.Nxf4 g5 31.Nxe6 fxe6±]

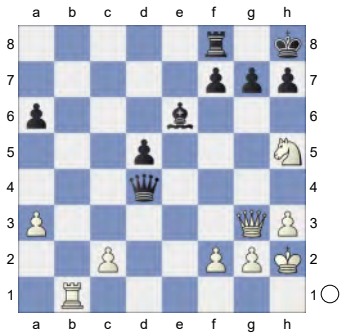
27...Qb2 28.Qg3 1.08/21 Prevents Qe5.
[⌓28.Qe3 1.39/21]
28...Kh8? 15.86/21
[28...g6± 1.08/21]



29.Rb6!!+- Qa1
[29...Qd4 30.Rb8]

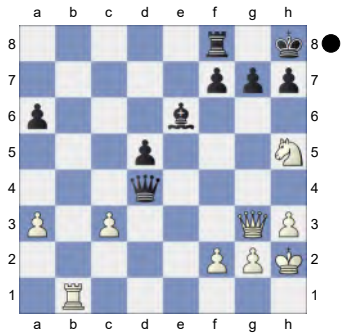


30.Rb1!! 12.30/24 **Qd4**
[30...g6 31.Rxa1]



31.c3

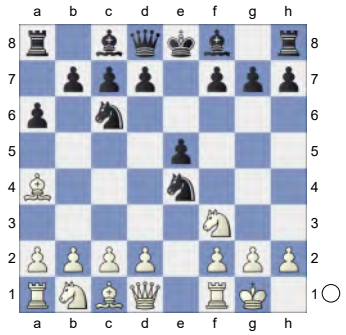
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.39
1-0

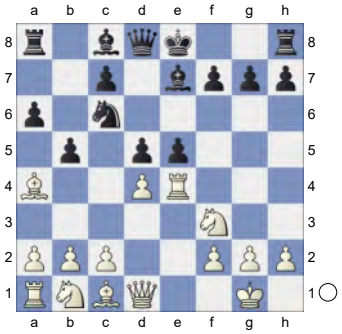
65 **C80**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2766**
■ **Yu,Yangyi** **2729**
Airthings Masters Div 2 W (5.3) 10.02.23
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

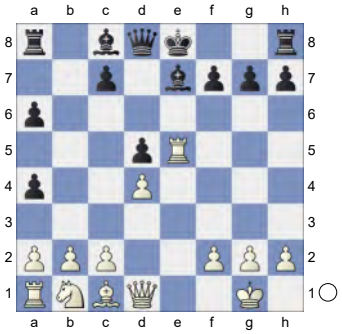


6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4
Black must now prevent Bb3. **8...d5**

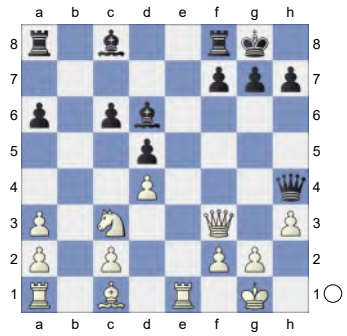
(Diagram)



9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 And now Bb3 would win. White is slightly better.
10...bxa4

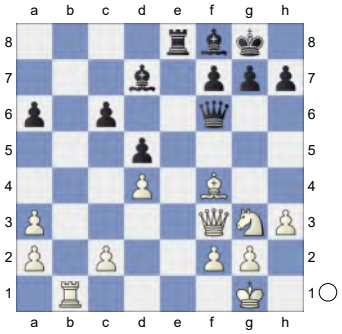


11.Nc3 0-0 12.Re1 0.12/18
[White should try 12.Rxd5± 0.66/19 Bd6
A) 13.Bg5 Qd7 *(13...f6 14.Bf4 Be6 15.Bxd6 cxd6 16.Rh5 a3 17.bxa3 g6 18.Rh4 f5 19.g3 Rc8 20.d5 Bf7 21.Ne2 g5 22.Rb4 Bh5 23.Qd2 Qf6 24.Re1 Rfe8 25.Nd4 Rxe1+ 26.Qxe1 a5 27.Rb7 Re8 28.Ne6* Quesada Perez,L (2520)-Del Castilho,M (2182) San Salvador 2023 ½-½ (38) *)* 14.Bf4 a3 15.Bxd6 cxd6 16.Rb1 Qc6 17.Rg5 axb2 18.Nd5 Ra7 19.Rxb2 f5 20.Nf4 Re7 21.h4 Rfe8 22.Qd2 Qe4 23.Rb3 Qe1+ 24.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 25.Kh2 R1e4 26.Nh5 Rxh4+ 27.Kg3 Rg4+ Theis,B (2620)-6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.0-0 e5_64261 (2545) ChessPub Guide 2023 03 d5 and e6: model game [John Watson] 1-0 (63);
B) 13.Bf4!]
12...Bd6 13.h3N
[13.Nxd5!? Bxh2+ 14.Kxh2 Qxd5 15.Re5=]
[13.Qh5 a3 *(13...c6)* 14.Nxd5 axb2 15.Bxb2 Rb8 16.Rab1 Re8 *(16...Be6 17.c4 g6 18.Qe2 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Bb4 20.Rec1 Qxd5 21.Qxa6 Bd6 22.h3 Ra8 23.Qd3 Rxa2* The Be7 Spanish-Line Theoretical Improve*)* 17.Ne3 Bf4 18.d5 Rb4 19.c4 Bxe3 20.Rxe3 Rxe3 21.fxe3 Rxc4 22.Bd4 c5 23.Ba1 f6 24.h3 Qe7 25.Qf3 h6 26.Re1 Re4 27.Kf2 Bd7 The Be7 Spanish-Line 108: Đ¡aruana-Carlsen (68)]
13...a3 14.bxa3 c6 15.Qf3 Qh4 0.81/21
[15...Qa5= 0.05/19 keeps the balance.]

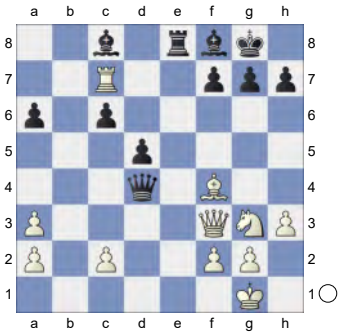


Inhibits Bf4. **16.Ne2** 0.45/18
[16.Nxd5!± 0.81/21 Qxd4 *(16...cxd5 17.Qxd5)* 17.Bf4! Bxf4 18.Nxf4]
16...Re8± 17.Bf4 Bf8 18.Ng3 Prevents Bf5. **18...Bd7 19.Rxe8 Rxe8 20.Rb1 Qf6**

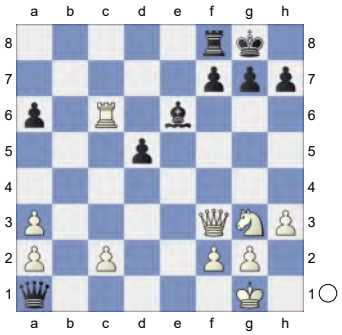
(Diagram)



21.Rb7 Bc8 22.Rc7 &Bianco is more active. **22...Qxd4**

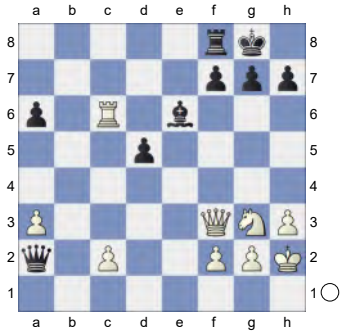


23.Bd6! -0.01/23 **Be6**
[23...Re1+ 24.Kh2]
24.Bxf8 Dancing on a razor blade.
24...Rxf8 25.Rxc6 Qa1+ 0.85/21
[25...g6± 0.36/19]

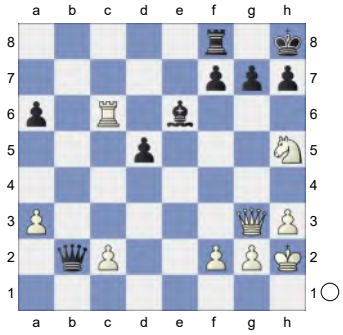


26.Kh2± Qxa2 1.63/21
[26...g6± 1.00/17 keeps fighting.]

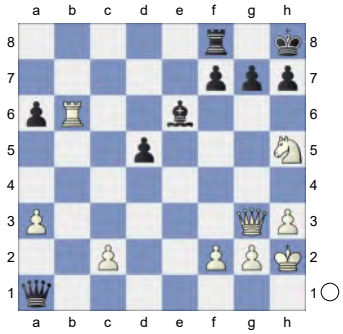
(Diagram)



27.Nh5!+-
[Don't do 27.Rxa6?! Qxc2 28.Nh5 Qc7+ 29.Qf4 Qxf4+ 30.Nxf4 g5 31.Nxe6 fxe6±]
27...Qb2 28.Qg3 Prevents Qe5.
28...Kh8? 16.98/22
[28...g6± 1.22/22]

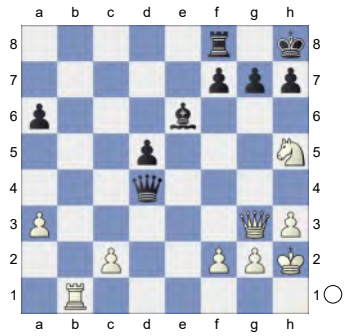


29.Rb6!! Qa1
[29...Qd4 30.Rb8]

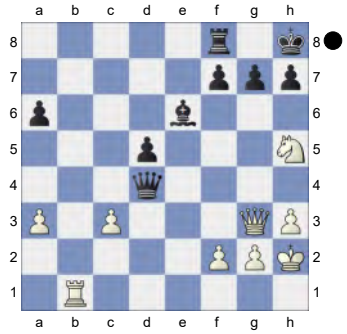


30.Rb1!! 11.46/23 **Qd4**
[30...Bg4 31.Rxa1]

(Diagram)



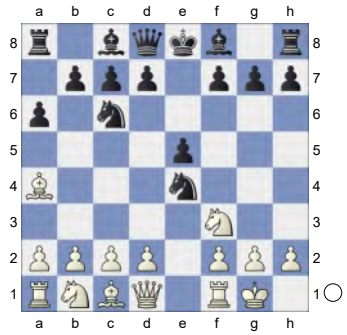
31.c3



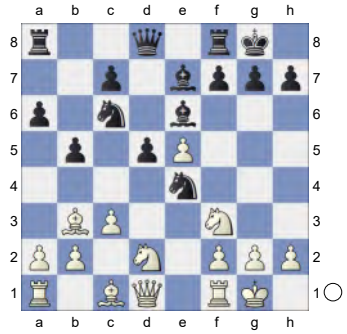
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.45
1-0

66 **C83**
□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2785**
■ **Sevian,Samuel** **2687**
Airthings Masters Play-In rapid (7)
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

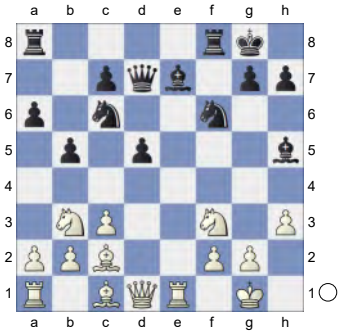


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0

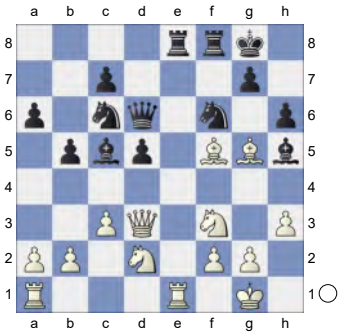


11.Bc2 f5 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Re1 Bg4 14.h3 Bh5 15.Nb3N Inhibits Bc5. White has an edge.
[15.Nf1 Bc5 16.Ng3 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Qd6 18.Kg2 Rae8 19.Rxe8 Rxe8 20.Bg5 Ne5 *(20...Ne7 21.Qd2 c6 22.h4 Bb6 23.Rg1 Bc7 24.Kf1 Ng6 25.h5 Nxh5 26.Nxh5 Qh2 27.Ng3 Qh3+ 28.Rg2 Bf4 29.Qd4 Bxg5 30.Bf5 Qh4 31.Bd7 Qxd4 32.cxd4 Rd8 33.Bxc6 Nf4 34.Rg1 Rc8 35.Ne2* Asadli,V (2575)-Kusa,J (2360) Mayrhofen 2022 ½-½ (60) *)* 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.f4 Ng6 23.Bxg6 hxg6 24.f5 d4 25.Qf3 Re5 26.fxg6 Qd5 27.h4 Kg7 28.h5 dxc3 29.bxc3 Bd6 Chapter-Games Game 18 (37) 30.Rh1 Kh6 31.Rh4 Qxf3+ 32.Kxf3 Rc5 33.Rg4 Bf8 34.Rf4 Rxc3+ 35.Kg4 Kg7 36.Nf5+ Kg8 37.Re4 1-0 (37) Grube,J (2776)-Levitina,I (2673) Nice 2021 EXP 61 Bank Hofmann [Gonzalez Perez,A]]
15...Qd7

(Diagram)

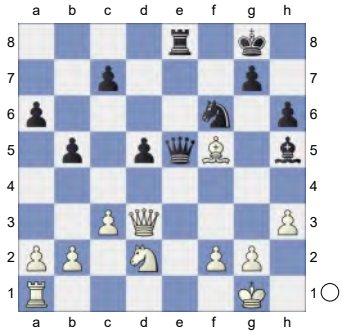


16.Bg5 Rad8 0.33/20
[16...Bxf3= -0.01/21 might be stronger. 17.Qxf3 Ne4]
17.Nbd2 Bc5 18.Qb1 0.01/20
[18.a4± 0.32/16 is more appropriate.]
18...Qd6= 19.Bf5 Rde8 Against Re6
[19...Qg3? 20.Kh1 Bxf2 21.Re6 *(21.Bh4 Bxe1 22.Bxg3 Bxg3=)* 21...Bxf3 22.Nxf3+-]
20.Qd3 -0.39/21 Prevents Ne4.
[20.Rxe8= -0.02/21 Bxe8 21.Qd3]
20...h6 0.20/22
[20...Bxf3∓ -0.39/21 21.Rxe8 Rxe8 22.Nxf3 Ne4]

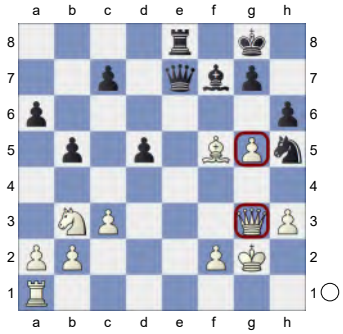


21.Be3 Bxe3 22.Rxe3 Rxe3 23.Qxe3 Re8⇄ Prevents Qe6+. Black has counterplay **24.Qd3 Ne5 25.Nxe5 Qxe5**

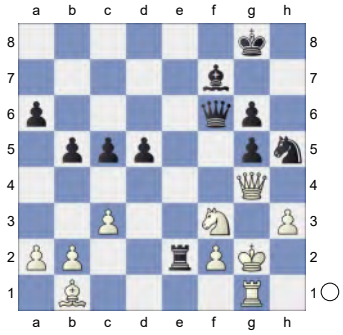
(Diagram)



26.Nb3 Qf4 27.g4 Bf7 28.Kg2 -0.43/20
[28.Nc5= -0.01/20]
28...Qd6∓ 29.Qg3 Qe7 30.g5 -1.68/21
[30.Rc1∓ -0.42/20]
30...Nh5!-+



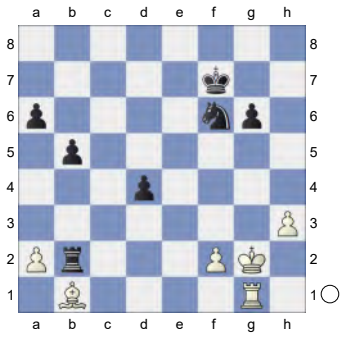
31.Qg4 -2.56/20
[⌓31.Qe3 -1.77/21 Qd6 32.Qf3]
31...hxg5 32.Rg1 Qf6 33.Nd4
[But not 33.Kh1 Re5 34.Bc2 Qxf2-+]
33...g6 34.Bb1 c5 35.Nf3 Re2



36.Qxg5 Rxb2 37.Qxf6 Nxf6 38.Ne5 -2.17/21
[38.Ng5∓ -1.35/20]
38...d4 -1.13/21

[Black should play 38...Ne4!-+ -2.17/21 39.Bxe4 dxe4]

39.cxd4∓ cxd4 40.Nxf7 Kxf7



Endgame KRB-KRN **41.Kf3 Nd7** -0.71/20

[⌓41...g5! -1.06/22 42.Bd3 Rxa2 43.Rxg5 Ra3]

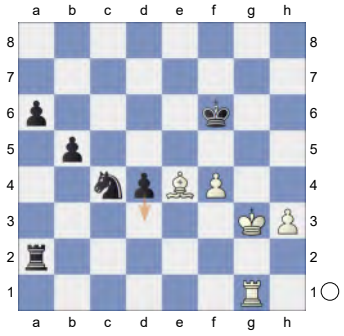
42.Bxg6+ Kf6 White must now prevent ...Ne5+. **43.Be4** -1.42/21

[Better is 43.Bb1∓ -0.55/20]

43...Ne5+ 44.Kg3 Rxa2 Threatens to win with ...Re2. **45.f4** -1.87/21

[45.Rd1∓ -1.07/21]

45...Nc4



...d3! is the strong threat. **46.Kh4 Re2 47.Bd3** -3.90/20

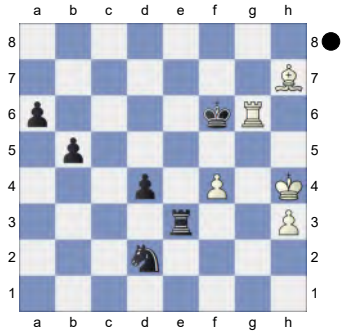
[47.Rg6+ -1.87/21 Ke7 48.Bf5]

47...Re3-+ 48.Bh7 Nd2? -1.13/21

[48...d3-+ -4.22/20 has better winning chances. 49.Rg6+ Ke7 50.Rxa6 d2 51.Ra7+ Ke6]

49.Rg6+∓

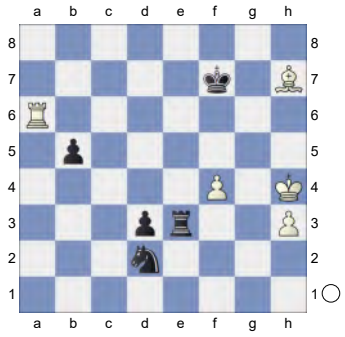
(Diagram)



Kf7 -0.38/20

[49...Ke7!∓ -1.27/21 50.Rxa6 d3]

50.Rxa6∓ d3



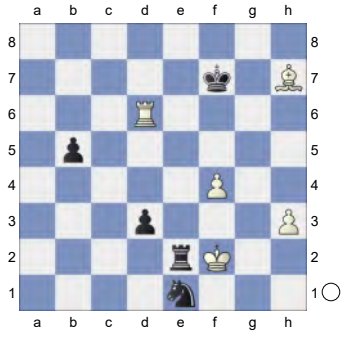
And now ...Nf3+ would win. **51.Rd6?** -3.34/23

[51.Bg6+∓ -0.44/20 Kg7 52.f5]

51...Nf3+-+ 52.Kg3 Ne1+? -0.01/19

[52...Ng5+-+ -3.54/21 53.Kf2 Re2+ 54.Kg3 Nxh7 55.Rxd3 Re8]

53.Kf2!= Re2+ 54.Kf1 Re3 55.Kf2 Re2+



56.Kf1 Re3 57.f5 Nf3? 3.69/26

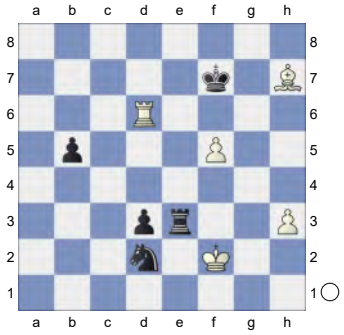
[57...Rxh3? 58.Bg6+ *(58.Kxe1 Rxh7 59.Rd7+ Kg8=)* 58...Kg7 59.Kxe1+-]

[57...Nc2= 0.00/20 and Black has

nothing to worry.]

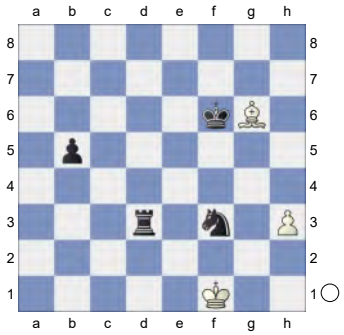
58.Bg6+? 0.00/28

[White should try 58.Kf2+- 3.69/26 Nd2

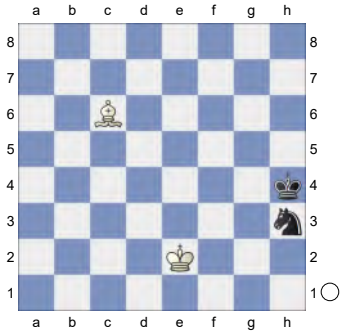


59.Bg8+! *(59.Kxe3 Nc4+ 60.Ke4 Nxd6+ 61.Kxd3 Kg7=)* 59...Ke7 60.Kxe3 Nf1+ 61.Kxd3 Kxd6 62.f6]

58...Ke7 The position is equal. **59.Rxd3 Rxd3 60.f6+!** Discovered Attack **60...Kxf6**



61.Bxd3 KB-KN **61...Kg5 62.Bxb5 Kh4 63.Bc6 Ng5 64.Ke2 Nxh3**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.46/ Black=0.46

½-½

67 **C80**

□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2859**

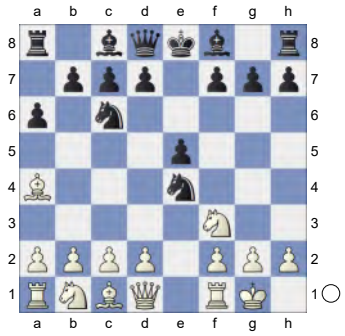
■ **Dubov,Daniil** **2708**

MrDodgy Inv 3 Finals (4.5) 01.12.2022

[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2

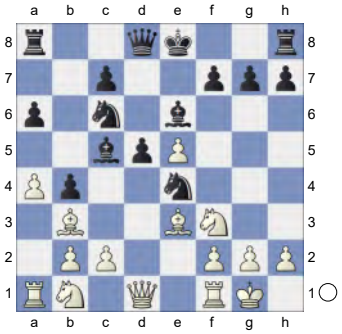
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



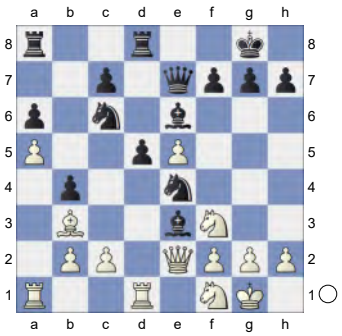
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.a4 b4 9.dxe5 Be6 10.Be3 Bc5N

[10...Be7 11.Nbd2 *(11.a5 0-0 12.Qd3 Nc5 13.Bxc5 Bxc5 14.c3 Ne7 15.Nbd2 bxc3 16.bxc3 Ba7 17.Nd4 Bd7 18.N2f3 c5 19.e6 Be8 20.Ng5 f5 21.Nf7 Rxf7 22.exf7+ Bxf7 23.Nxf5 c4 24.Bxc4 Nxf5 25.Bxa6 Nd6* Van Foreest,J (2702)-Mamedyarov,S (2767) Wijk aan Zee 2022 Chess Informant 151 [Perunovic, Milos] 0-1 (44)) 11...Nxd2 12.Qxd2 Na5 13.Ne1 Nxb3 14.cxb3 0-0 15.Rc1 Qd7 16.Bc5 Bxc5 17.Rxc5 a5 18.Qd4 c6 19.Nc2 f6 20.Rc1 Qc7 21.exf6 Rxf6 22.Ne3 Rc8 23.Nxd5 Bxd5 24.Qxd5+ cxd5 25.Rxc7 Stern,A-Minckwitz,J Baden - Baden 1870 1-0 (31)]

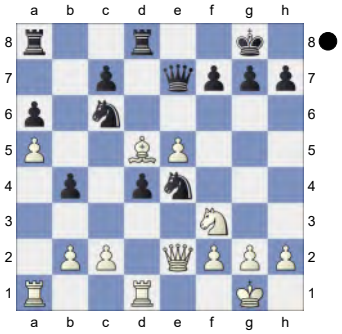
(Diagram)



11.Qe2 0-0 12.Rd1 The position is equal. **12...Re8** 0.43/20
[12...Na5= 0.12/18]
13.Nbd2± Black must now prevent Nxe4.
13...Qe7 14.Nf1 -0.12/20
[14.Nxe4± 0.38/20 dxe4 15.Bxc5 exf3 16.Qe3]
14...Red8!= 15.a5 Bxe3

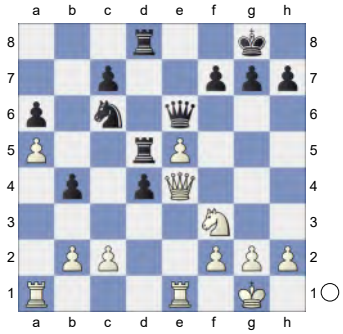


16.Nxe3 d4 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.Bxd5

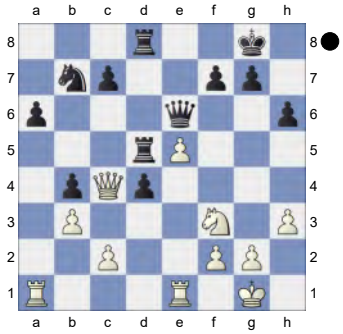


Remove Defender **18...Rxd5 19.Qxe4 Rad8 20.Re1 Qe6**

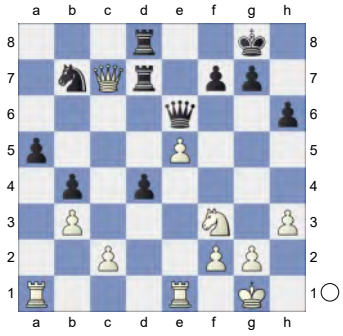
(Diagram)



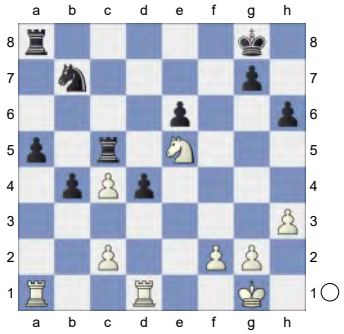
21.h3 h6 22.Qd3 Nxa5 23.b3 Nb7 24.Qc4 -1.19/21
[24.Qxa6∓ -0.41/22 Qxa6 25.Rxa6]



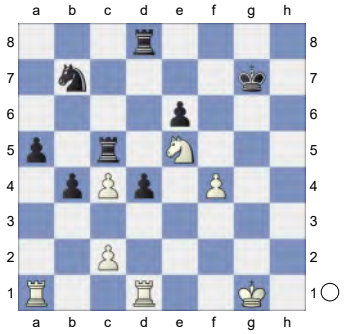
24...a5!∓ 25.Qxc7 -1.98/24
[25.Re4∓ -1.13/20]
25...R5d7-+



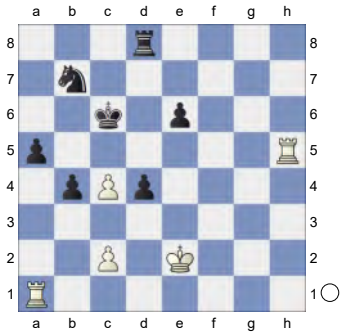
26.Qc4 Qxc4 27.bxc4 Rc7 -1.14/22
[Better is 27...d3-+ -1.88/22 28.cxd3 Rxd3]
28.e6 -1.52/22
[⌓28.Nd2 -1.14/22]
28...fxe6∓ 29.Ne5 Ra8 30.Red1 Rc5 -1.01/23
[Black should try 30...Nc5-+ -1.75/22 aiming for ...a4. 31.Rdb1 Raa7]



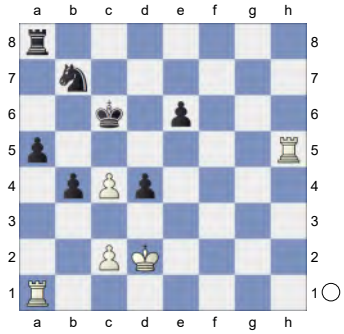
31.f4 Rd8 32.h4 g5 -0.39/21
[32...Rd6∓ -0.78/19]
33.hxg5∓ hxg5 34.g3 gxf4 -0.01/21
[34...Rd6∓ -0.32/21]
35.gxf4= Kg7



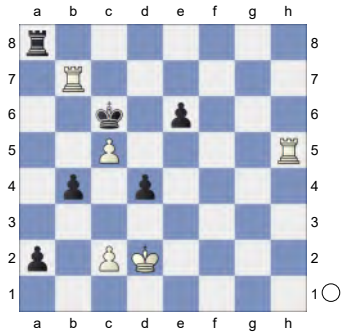
36.Kf2 Kf6 0.50/22
[36...Rc7= 0.01/21 was preferrable.]
37.Rh1!± Rxe5 0.77/22
[37...Rc7± 0.41/23]
38.fxe5+± Kxe5± Endgame KRR-KRN
39.Rh5+ -0.05/21
[39.Rh7!± 0.44/23 is superior. Rf8+ 40.Ke2]
39...Kd6= 40.Ke2 Kc6



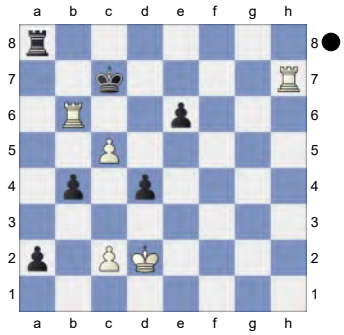
41.Re5 Kd6 42.Rb5 Kc6 43.Rh5 Ra8
Threatens to win with ...Nc5. **44.Kd3 Rd8 45.Kd2 Ra8**



46.Re1 Kd6 47.Ree5 a4! ...a3 is the strong threat. **48.Rb5 a3** 0.93/24
[48...Kc6= -0.01/23 keeps the balance. 49.Kc1 a3]
49.Rxb7 0.00/21
[49.Rb6+± 0.93/24 Kc7 50.Rxe6]
49...a2? #6/14
[49...Kc6= 0.00/21 50.Re7 *(50.Rxb4 a2=)* 50...Kd6]
50.c5+ Kc6



51.Rb6+ Kc7 52.Rh7+

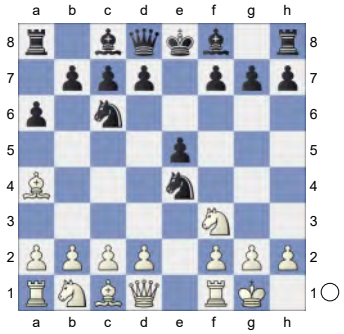


White used his chance.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very

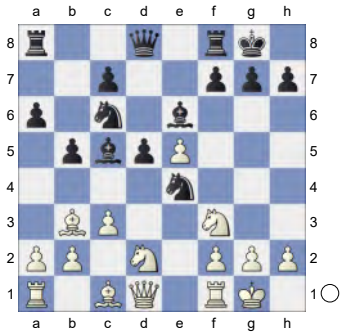
precise) /Black=0.27 (precise)
1-0

68 **C82**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2859**
■ **Le,Quang Liem** **2728**
Meltwater Tour Final 2022 rapid (5.7)
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

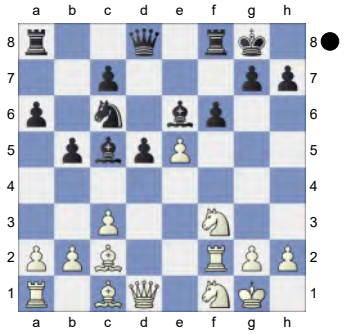


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0

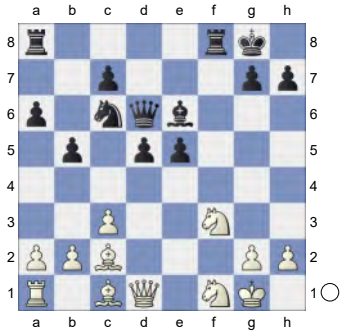


11.Bc2 Nxf2 12.Rxf2 f6 13.Nf1

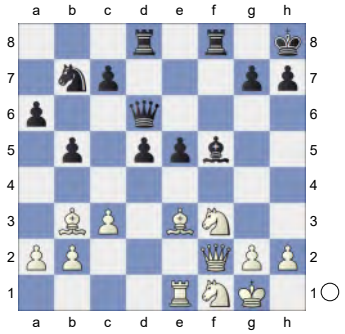
(Diagram)



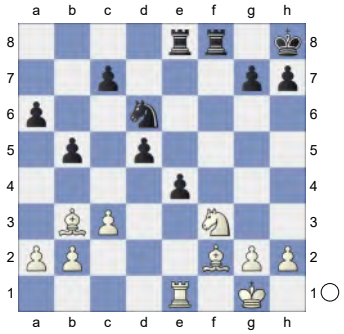
Hoping for Be3. **13...Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 fxe5** aiming for ...e4. **15.Kg1** Strongly threatening Bxh7+! White has an edge. **15...Qd6**



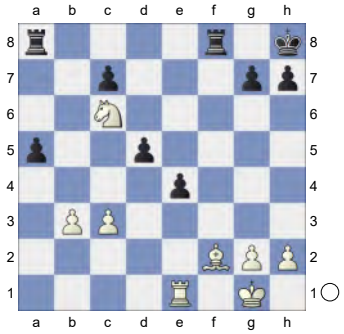
16.Be3 White has compensation.
16...Bf5 17.Bb3 This bishop pair is nice.
17...Rad8 18.Qe1 Na5 19.Qf2 Bc5 is the strong threat. **19...Nb7** Inhibits Bc5. **20.Re1 Kh8** 0.59/20
[20...Bg4= 0.26/18 is superior.]



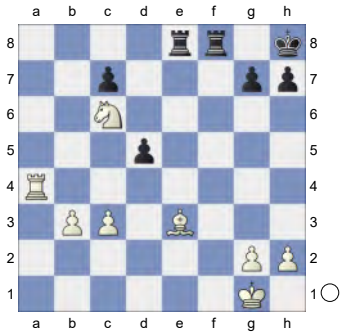
21.Qg3± Rde8 22.Bf2 -0.01/22
[22.Rd1± 0.35/18]
22...Be4= 23.N1d2 Bxf3 0.71/18
[23...Nc5= -0.01/22]
24.Nxf3± e4 25.Qxd6 Nxd6



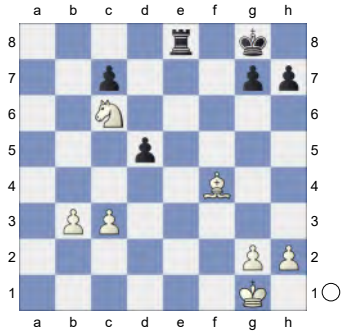
26.Nd4 Nc4 27.Bxc4 bxc4 28.b4 cxb3 29.axb3 a5N 0.95/20
[29...c5= 0.00/21 remains equal. 30.Nc2 Rc8]
30.Nc6 Ra8



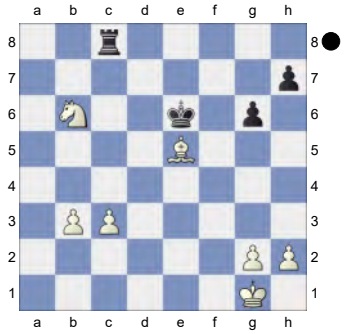
31.Ra1 &Bianco is more active. **31...a4 32.Rxa4** 0.56/22
[White should try 32.bxa4± 1.33/22 Rf6 33.Ne7]
32...e3? 2.22/22 This move loses the game for Black.
[Better is 32...Rxa4± 0.56/22 33.bxa4 Ra8]
33.Bxe3+- Threatens to win with Rxa8.
33...Rae8



34.Rf4! Rxf4
[34...Kg8 35.Kf2]
35.Bxf4 Kg8



36.Bxc7 Kf7 37.Be5 White is clearly winning. **37...Rc8 38.Nb4 g6 39.Nxd5 Ke6 40.Nb6**

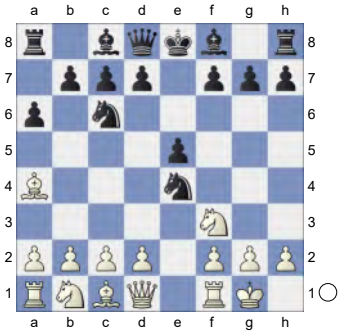


Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.40
1-0

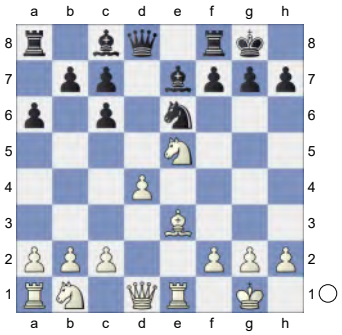
69 **C80**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2859**
■ **Le,Quang Liem** **2728**
Meltwater Tour Final 2022 rapid (5.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



6.Re1 Nc5 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Nxe5 Be7 9.d4 Ne6 10.Be3 0-0



11.c4 f6 12.Nf3 Re8 13.Nc3 Nf8 White is slightly better. **14.Qb3**

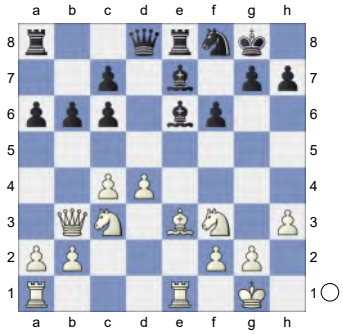
[14.d5 Bg4 15.Bf4 Bb4 16.Re7 Rxe7 0-1 (16) Marochkina,Y (1818)-Girya,O (2398) FIDE Online Arena INT 2024]

14...b6N

[14...Bg4 15.Qxb7 Qd7 16.d5 Bd6 17.Nd2 cxd5 18.Qxd5+ Be6 19.Qa5 Reb8 20.c5 Be5 21.b3 Ng6 22.Nf3 Bxc3 23.Qxc3 Bd5 24.Nd4 c6 25.f3 Re8 26.Bf2 Ne7 27.Rad1 a5 28.Qc2 a4 29.b4 Tomczak,J (2584)-Kollars,D (2635) Deutschland 152/(128) 2022 (44)]

15.h3 Prevents Bg4. **15...Be6**

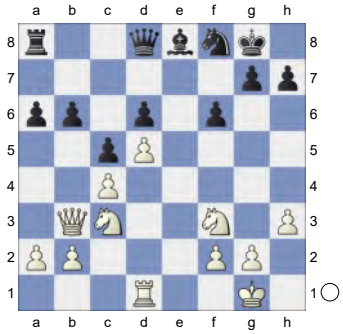
(Diagram)



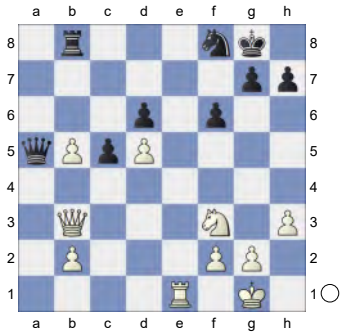
16.Rad1 Bf7 17.d5 c5 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Rxe8

[19.Bxd6 feels hotter. Qxd6 20.Ne4 Qf4 21.Qe3]

19...Bxe8 20.Bxd6 cxd6



21.Re1 b5 22.cxb5 axb5 23.Nxb5 Rb8! 24.a4↑ White has the initiative. **24...Bxb5 25.axb5 Qa5**

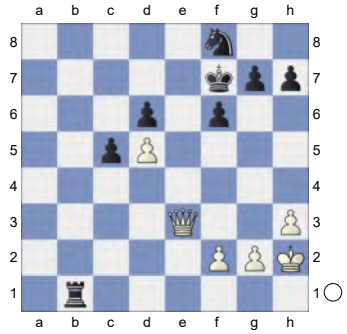


Prevents Ra1. **26.Qe3! Qxb5 27.Nd2!** Prevents Qb3. **27...Qxb2** 1.15/24

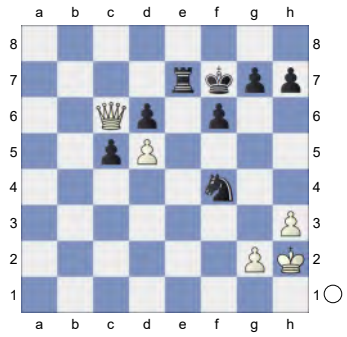
[27...Qa6± 0.51/19]

28.Rb1± Qxb1+ 29.Nxb1 Rxb1+ Endgame KQ-KRN **30.Kh2** aiming for Qe7. **30...Kf7**

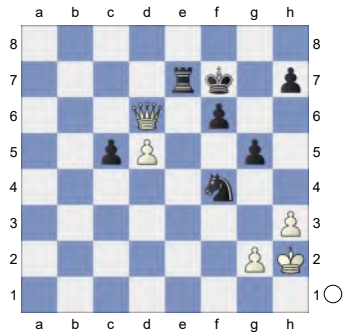
(Diagram)



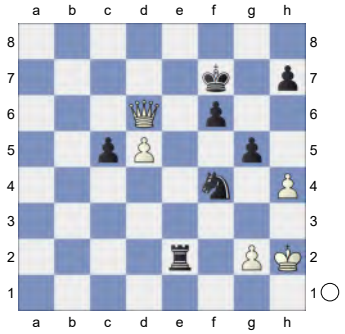
Prevents Qe7+. **31.Qa3** And now Qa7+ would win. White has strong compensation. **31...Rb7** 1.27/25 Prevents Qa7.
[⌓31...Ke7 0.86/25]
32.Qa6 Rd7 33.f4 Ng6 1.16/24
[⌓33...f5 0.83/21]
34.Qc8 Re7 35.Qc6 Nxf4



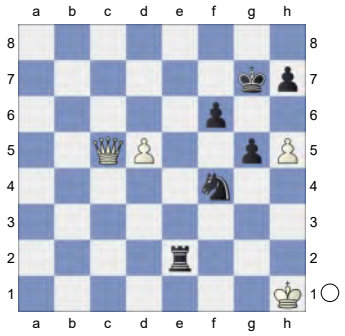
36.Qxd6 g5 2.73/24
[36...Nd3± 1.20/21]



37.h4 1.33/22
[Weaker is 37.Qxc5 Rd7±]
[37.Qd8!+- 2.73/24 and the rest is easy.]
37...Re2? 3.46/22
[37...h5± 1.33/22]

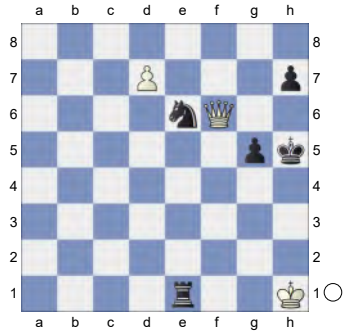


38.h5!+- Kg7 4.81/27
[38...Rxg2+? 39.Kh1+-]
[38...Nxh5 3.27/22 might work better. 39.Qc7+ *(39.Qxc5 Nf4=)* 39...Kg6]
39.Qxc5 Rxg2+? 0.44/5
[Black should try 39...Kh6+- 4.62/26 40.Qf8+ Kxh5]
40.Kh1± Re2

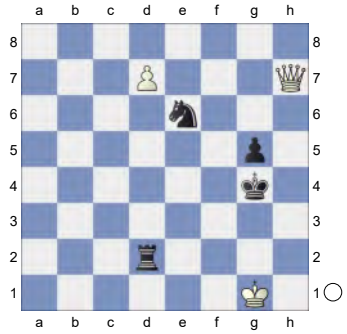


41.d6 Ne6 7.05/21
[⌓41...Nxh5 4.72/23 42.d7 Rd2 43.Qe7+ Kg6]
42.Qa7++- Kh6 43.Qe7 Kxh5 44.d7 Re5 10.22/27
[⌓44...Re1+ 5.19/27 45.Kh2 Kg6]
45.Qxf6 Re1+

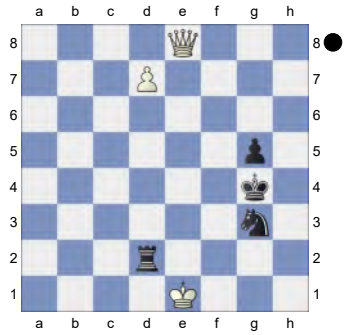
(Diagram)



46.Kh2 Threatens to win with Kg3. **46...Kg4 47.Qe7** Hoping for Qb4+. **47...Re2+** White is clearly winning. **48.Kg1 Kf3 49.Qf7+ Kg4 50.Qxh7** Black must now prevent Qd3. **50...Rd2**



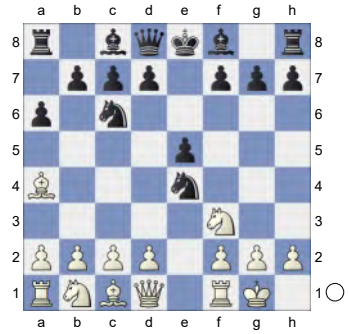
Prevents Qd3. **51.Qe4+ Nf4 52.Qe8 Ne2+ 53.Kf1** Threatening mate with Qxe2+. **53...Ng3+ 54.Ke1**



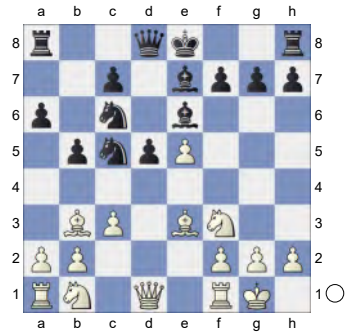
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)
1-0

70 **C80**
□ **Giri,Anish** **2764**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2741**
Meltwater Tour Final 2022 rapid (6.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
RR: 'Inf 40/(414)' Jan Timman won this match of generations in Hogeeven 3,5-2,5, but here is a nice victory of the youngster, who is only aged 16. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

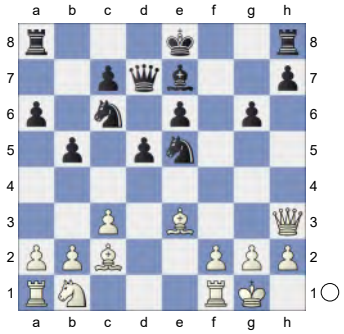


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Nc5

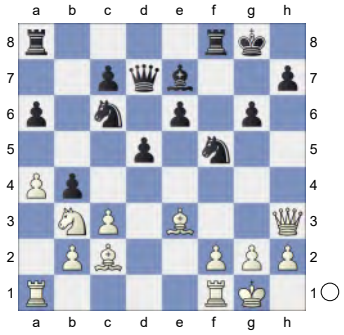


11.Bc2 Nd7 12.Nd4 Ndxe5 13.Nxe6
[13.f4 Nc4 14.Nxc6 Nxe3 15.Nxd8 Nxd1 16.Nxe6 Ne3 17.Nxc7+ Kd7 18.Nxa8 Nxc2 19.Nd2 Bc5+ 20.Kh1 Nxa1 21.Rxa1 Rxa8 22.Re1 Kd6 23.g3 Rc8 ½-½ (23) Tal,M (2565)-Timman,J (2640) Montpellier 1985 CBM 108 [Postny,Evgeny]]
13...fxe6 14.Qh5+N White is slightly

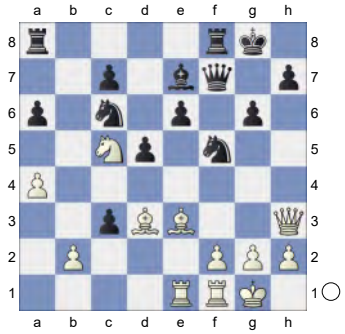
better.
[14.Nd2 0-0 *(14...Bf6 15.f4 Nf7 16.Qg4 Qc8 17.Bc5 h5 18.Qh3 Be7 19.Nb3 Bd6 20.Rae1 Rh6 21.Be3 Rf6 22.Nd4 Ncd8 23.Qxh5 c5 24.Nf3 Qc7 25.Bg6 Kd7 26.Qh7 Kc8 27.Qxg7 Qe7 28.f5 Qf8 29.Qxf6* Van Foreest,J (2548)-Timman,J (2562) Hoogeveen NED 2015 1-0 *)* 15.f4 Nf7 Chapter7-C3221 [Mikhalevski Viktor]]
14...g6 **15.Qh3** White has compensation. **15...Qd7**



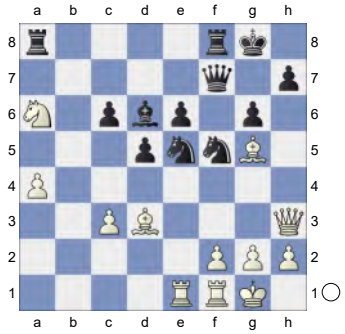
16.Bh6 -0.26/19
[16.f4± 0.55/18 Nf7 17.Nd2]
16...Nf7= **17.a4!** And now axb5 would win. **17...b4**
[17...Nxh6 18.Qxh6 0-0-0 19.axb5 axb5 20.Bd3±]
18.Be3 A strong pair of Bishops. **18...0-0**
19.Nd2 Nd6 20.Nb3 Nf5



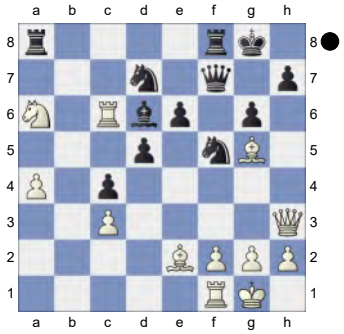
21.Nc5 Qd6 22.Nb7! Qe5 23.Rae1 Qf6 24.Nc5 -0.14/19
[24.Bc5± 0.31/20 is more appropriate.]
24...Qf7
[Don't take 24...bxc3 25.Nd7 Qf7 26.Nxf8 Bxf8 27.bxc3±]
25.Bd3 bxc3
[25...Nxe3? 26.fxe3 Qe8 27.Qxe6+ *(27.Nxe6 Rxf1+ 28.Bxf1 Qd7±)* 27...Kh8 28.Nxa6 *(28.Qxd5 Rd8=)* 28...Rxf1+ 29.Rxf1+-]



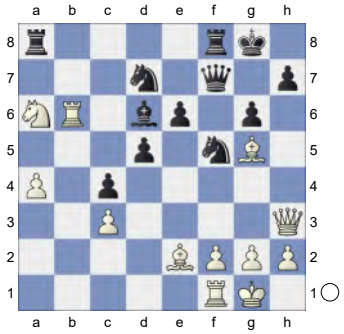
26.bxc3 Bd6↑ Black is more active.
27.Nxa6 -0.68/23
[27.Nb7= -0.20/18 was preferrable.]
27...Ne5∓ **28.Bd4** -1.17/21
[⌓28.Bb5 -0.75/20]
28...Nd7 -0.69/20
[Black should try 28...Nxd4∓ -1.17/21 29.cxd4 Nc6]
29.Be3 c6 30.Bg5 Ne5



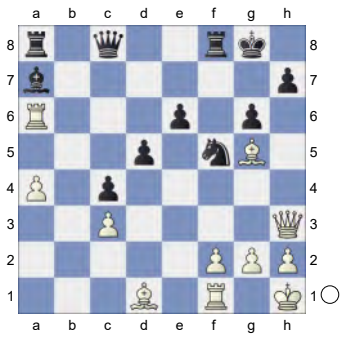
31.Be2 c5 -0.18/21
[31...h5∓ -0.56/20]
32.Rb1 -0.86/21
[32.Bb5= -0.18/21 keeps the balance.]
32...c4∓ **33.Rb6 Nd7 34.Rc6**
(Diagram)



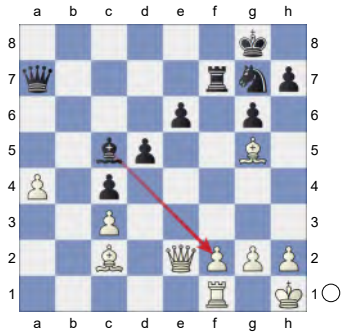
Ne5 0.01/17
[34...Rfc8!∓ -0.90/21 35.Rxc8+ Rxc8]
35.Rb6= Nd7



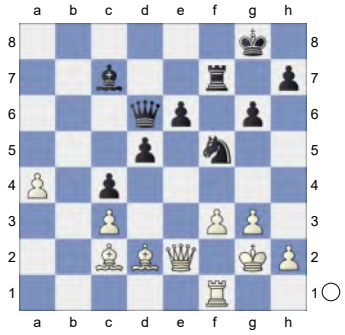
36.Rc6 Nb8 -0.46/21
[Better is 36...Rfc8∓ -1.00/20 37.Rxc8+ Rxc8]
37.Nxb8∓ Bxb8 38.Bd1 Ba7 0.01/21
[38...Qd7∓ -0.35/17 39.Rb6 Bc7]
39.Kh1 -0.62/21
[White should play 39.Bf4!= 0.01/21 Bb8 40.Bxb8 Rfxb8 41.Re1]
39...Qd7! 40.Ra6 Qc8 -0.35/20
[40...Rae8 -0.67/20 might be stronger. 41.Bf4 Qb7]



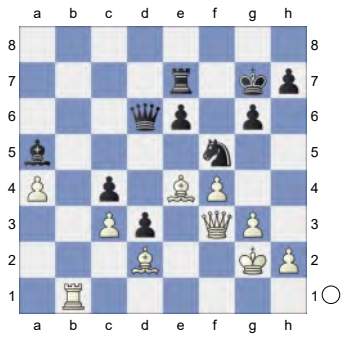
41.Ra5 Rf7 42.Bc2 Bc5 43.Rxa8 Qxa8 44.Qg4 Qa7 0.19/20
[44...Qa5 -0.15/19 deserves consideration. 45.Bd2 e5]
45.Qe2= Ng7



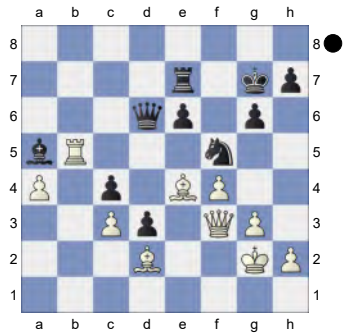
46.f3 Bd6 47.Bh6 Qe7 48.g3 Against Qh4 **48...Nf5 49.Bd2 Bc7 50.Kg2 Qd6**



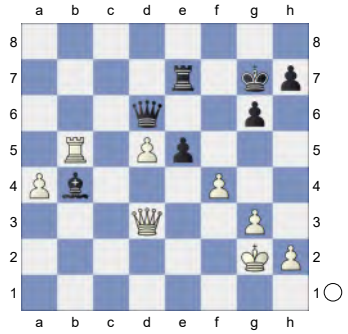
51.f4 Re7 52.Qf3 d4 53.Be4 -0.53/21
[53.Bxf5= 0.18/20 exf5 54.cxd4]
53...d3∓ 54.Ra1 Ba5 &Nero is much more active. **55.Rb1 Kg7** -0.17/21
[55...Kf7!∓ -0.59/19]



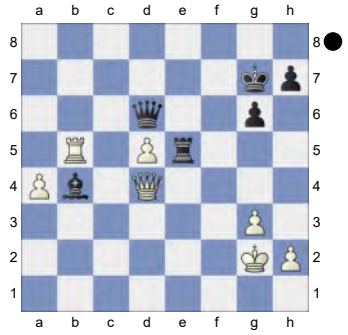
56.Rb5 -1.37/21
[56.Qf2!= -0.17/21]



56...Nd4!∓ 57.cxd4 Bxd2 58.Bxd3 cxd3 59.Qxd3 Bb4 60.d5 aiming for Qd4+. **60...e5**

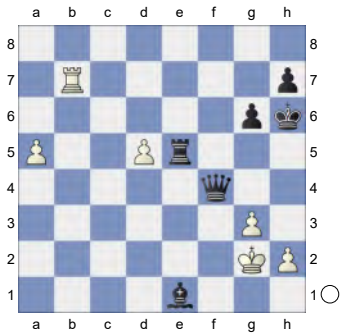


Against Qd4 **61.fxe5 Rxe5** White must now prevent ...Bc5. **62.Qd4**

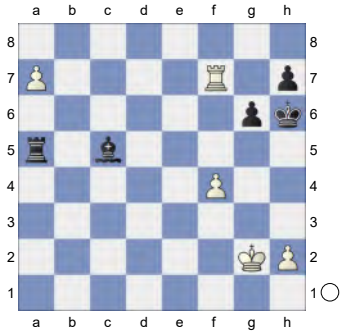


Against Bc5 **62...Be1** -0.77/23
[⌓62...Ba3! -1.42/23 63.a5 Qf6 64.Rb7+ Re7 65.Rxe7+ Bxe7]
63.a5 Qf6 -0.55/21
[63...Kg8∓ -1.02/22 Threatens to win with ...Re2+. 64.Qc5 Qxc5 65.Rxc5 Bb4]
64.Rb7+? -3.28/23 This move loses the game for White.
[White has to play 64.Qb2!∓ -0.55/21]

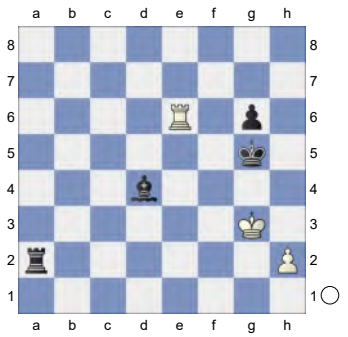
64...Kh6-+ (-> ...Re2+) **65.Qf4+ Qxf4**



66.gxf4 Rxd5 Endgame KRB-KR **67.a6 Ra5 68.a7 Bc3 69.Rd7 Bb4 70.Rf7 Bc5**

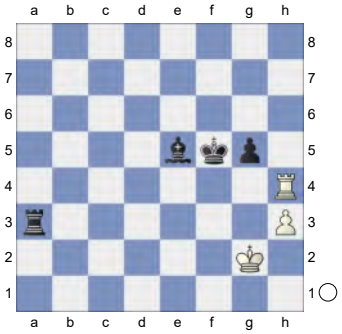


Black is clearly winning. **71.f5** -7.50/26
[⌓71.Rd7 -4.93/21]
71...Rxa7 72.fxg6 hxg6 73.Rf6 Ra2+ 74.Kg3 Bd4 75.Re6 Kg5

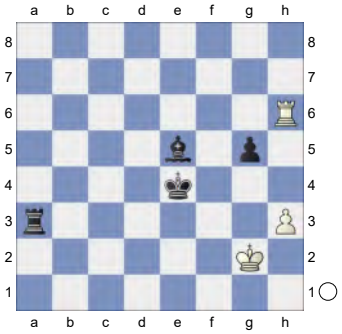


76.Re4 Bf6 77.h3 Ra3+ 78.Kg2 Kf5 79.Rg4 Be5 80.Rh4 g5

(Diagram)



81.Rh6 Ke4

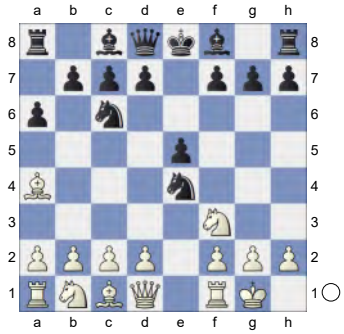


Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)
0-1

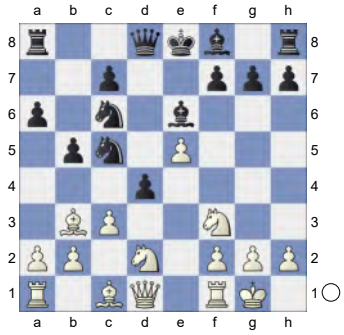
71 **C80**
□ **Giri,Anish** **2764**
■ **Le,Quang Liem** **2728**
Meltwater Tour Final 2022 rapid (1.2)
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

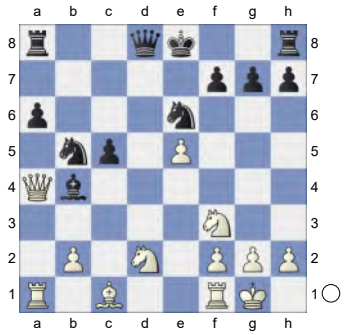
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 d4

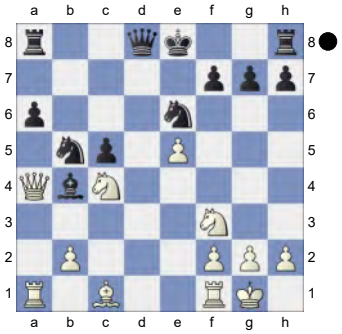


11.Bxe6 Nxe6 12.cxd4 Ncxd4 13.a4 Bb4 14.axb5 Nxb5
[14...axb5? 15.Rxa8 Qxa8 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qg4±]
15.Qa4 c5

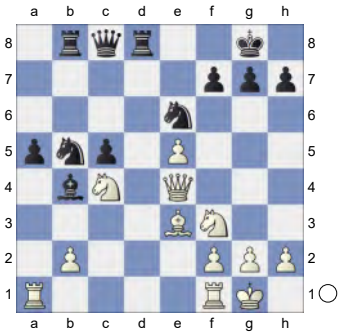


White has an edge. **16.Nc4**

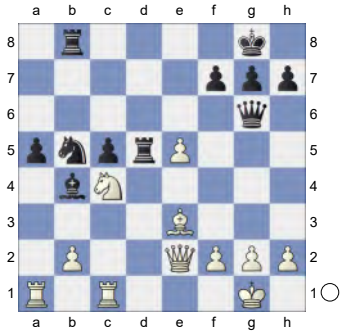
(Diagram)



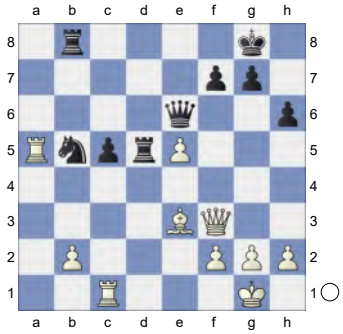
And now Rd1 would win. **16...0-0**
17.Be3 Rb8 18.Qd1 Inhibits Qd5.
18...Qc8 19.Qd5 Rd8 20.Qe4 a5!



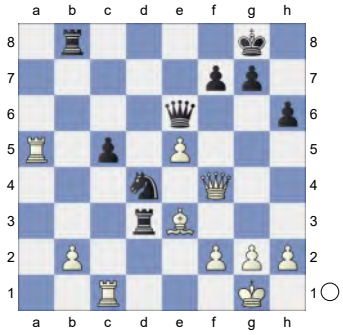
21.Rfc1N
[21.h4 h6 22.Qg4 Kh8 23.h5 Ned4 24.Qxc8 Rdxc8 25.Kh2 Ne6 26.Nfd2 Bxd2 27.Bxd2 Nbd4 28.Bxa5 Nb3 29.Ra3 Nxa5 30.Rxa5 Rd8 31.g3 Kg8 32.Rc1 Rd4 33.Kg2 Rd7 34.Rca1 Rb4 35.Ra8+ Kh7 Grube,J (2764)-Persse,D (2728) Semey 2022 Sicilian Sveshnikov MBM [Leykekhman,D] 1-0 (62) 36.Nd6 Rxb2 37.Re8 g6 38.Raa8 gxh5 39.Rh8+ Kg6 40.Rhg8+ Ng7 41.Ne8 f5 42.exf6 Rdd2 43.Rxg7+ Kf5 44.Nd6+ Kxf6 45.Ne8+ Kf5 46.Rf7+ Ke6 47.Raa7 c4 48.Rf6+ Ke5 49.Re7+ Kd4 50.Rf4+ Kc3 Giri,A (2764)-Le,Q (2728) San Francisco 2022 playchess.com [TA] 1-0 (62)]
21...Qa6 22.Ng5 Nxg5 23.Bxg5 Rd4 24.Qe2 Qg6 25.Be3 Rd5
(Diagram)



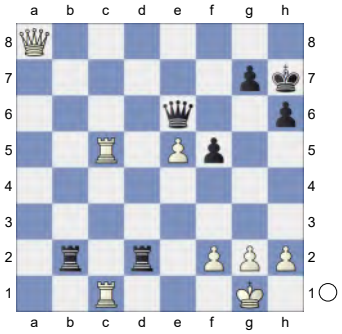
26.Qf3 Qe6 0.44/20
[26...Rd3= -0.01/23]
27.Nxa5± Bxa5 28.Rxa5 h6 1.06/22
[28...Qxe5± 0.47/23 29.Bf4 Nd4 30.Bxe5 Nxf3+ 31.gxf3 Rxe5]



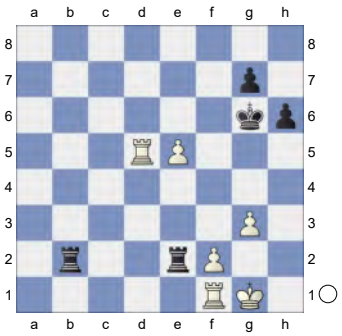
29.Qg3 -0.01/20
[Of course not 29.Bxc5 Nd4 30.Bxd4 Rxa5∓]
[Don't play 29.Rxc5 Rxc5 30.Bxc5 Qxe5±]
[White should play 29.h3!± 1.06/22]
29...Rd3= 30.Qf4 Nd4



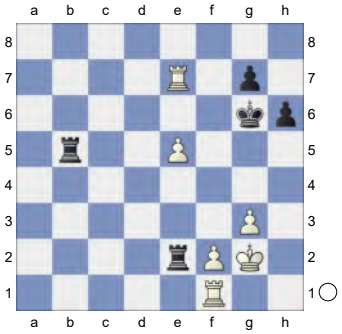
31.Bxd4 Rxd4 32.Qe3 Rxb2 33.Raxc5 Rdd2 34.Qe4 Threatening mate with Rc8+. **34...f5 35.Qa8+ Kh7**



aiming for ...Qb6. **36.Rf1 Re2 37.Qd5 Qxd5 38.Rxd5** Endgame KRR-KRR **38...f4** 0.41/21
[38...Re4= 0.07/20]
39.g3 0.01/21
[39.Rd4± 0.41/21]
39...fxg3 The position is equal. **40.hxg3 Kg6**

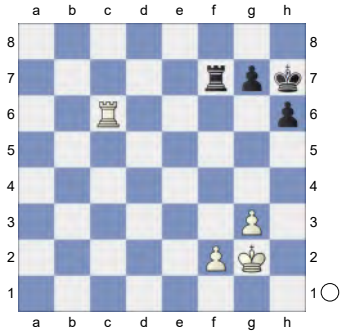


41.Kg2 Kf5 42.Rd7 Kg6! 43.Rd6+ Kf7 44.Rd7+ Kg6 45.Re7 Rb5

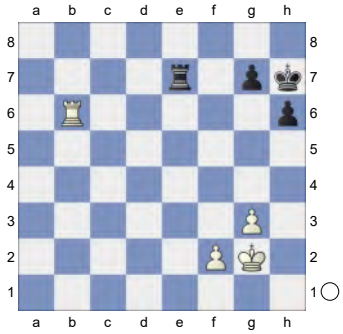


46.Rc1 Hoping for Rcc7. **46...Rbxe5 47.Rc6+ Kh7 48.Rxe5 Rxe5** KR-KR **49.Rb6 Re7 50.Rc6 Rf7**

(Diagram)



51.Rb6 Re7 52.Rc6 Rf7 53.Rb6 Re7

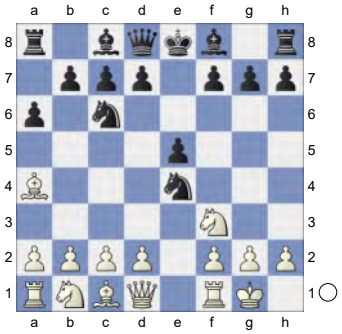


Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

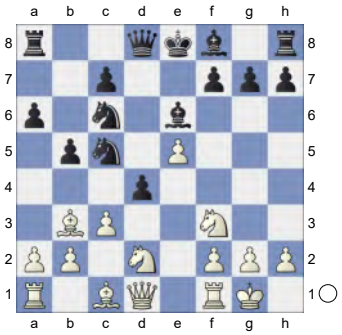
72 **C80**
□ **Giri,Anish** **2764**
■ **Le,Quang Liem** **2728**
Meltwater Tour Final 2022 rapid (1.4)
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



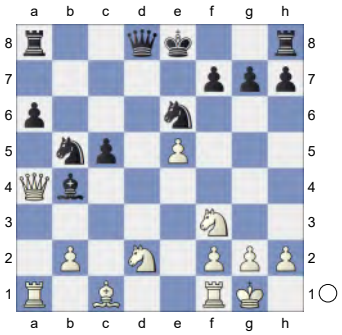
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 d4



11.Bxe6 Nxe6 12.cxd4 Ncxd4 13.a4 Threatening Nxd4. **13...Bb4 14.axb5 Nxb5**

[14...axb5? 15.Rxa8 Qxa8 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qg4±]

15.Qa4 c5



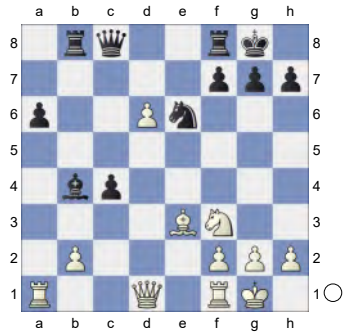
White is slightly better. **16.Nc4 0-0 17.Be3 Rb8 18.Qd1** Inhibits Qd5.

[18.Rfd1 Nbd4 19.Bxd4 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 cxd4 21.Qxa6 Qd5 22.Nb6 Qe6 23.Nc4 Qd5 24.Nb6 Qc6 25.Nc4 Qd5 26.Nb6 ½-½ (26) Bc4,B (2514)-Moen,A (2599) Cande 2023 CT-0832 [John Watson]]

18...Qc8 19.Nd6N

[19.Qd5 Rd8 20.Qe4 a5 21.h4 *(21.Rfc1 Qa6 22.Ng5 Nxg5 23.Bxg5 Rd4 24.Qe2 Qg6 25.Be3 Rd5 26.Qf3 Qe6 27.Nxa5 Bxa5 28.Rxa5 h6 29.Qg3 Rd3 30.Qf4 Nd4 31.Bxd4 Rxd4 32.Qe3 Rxb2 33.Raxc5 Rdd2 34.Qe4 f5 35.Qa8+ Kh7* Giri,A (2764)-Le,Q (2728) chess24.com INT 2022 Mega2023 Update 03 [TA] ½-½ (53) *)* 21...h6 22.Qg4 Kh8 23.h5 Ned4 24.Qxc8 Rdxc8 25.Kh2 Ne6 26.Nfd2 Bxd2 27.Bxd2 Nbd4 28.Bxa5 Nb3 29.Ra3 Nxa5 30.Rxa5 Rd8 31.g3 Kg8 32.Rc1 Rd4 33.Kg2 Rd7 Grube,J (2764)-Persse,D (2728) Cheliabinsk 2022 ICCF Telechess CBM 104 [John Watson] 1-0 (62)]

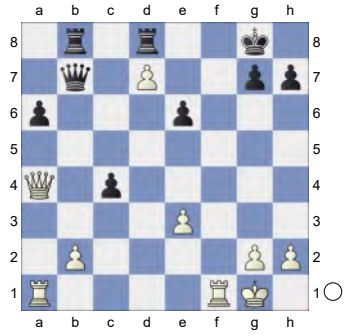
19...Nxd6 20.exd6 c4



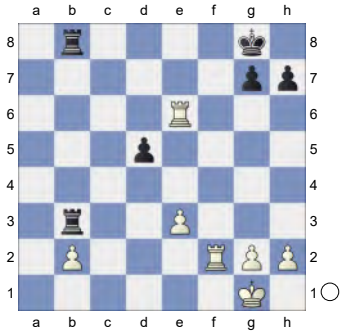
21.d7 Qb7 22.Qa4 Bc5 0.56/21

[22...Rfd8= 0.23/20]

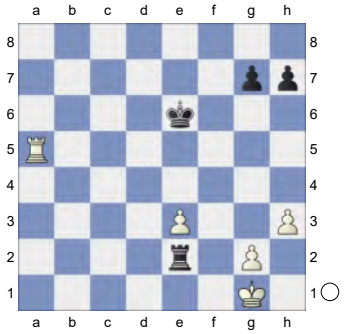
23.Ng5!± Bxe3 24.Nxe6 Chess con chili. **24...fxe6 25.fxe3** Rxf8+ is the strong threat. **25...Rfd8**



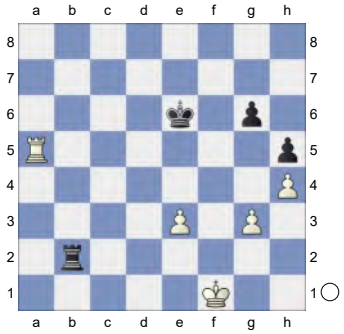
26.Qxc4 &Bianco is more active.
26...Qxd7 27.Rxa6 Qd5 28.Qxd5
[28.Qc7 seems wilder. Rb7 29.Qf4 e5 30.Qg4]
28...exd5 Endgame KRR-KRR **29.Rf2 Rb3 30.Re6 Rdb8**



31.Re5 Rxb2 32.Rxb2 Rxb2 33.Rxd5 KR-KR **33...Kf7 34.h3 Ke6 35.Ra5 Re2**

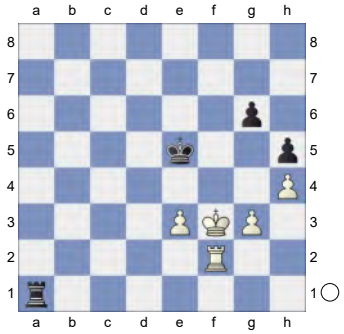


36.Ra3 h5 37.Kf1 Rb2 38.Ra5 g6 39.h4 Rb4 40.g3 Rb2

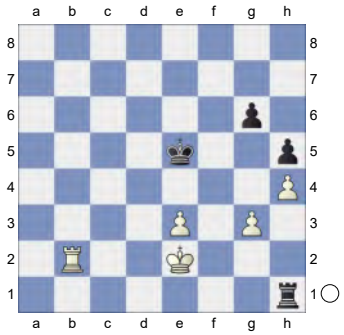


41.Ra4 Ke5 42.Rf4 Ra2 43.Rf2! Ra1+ 44.Ke2 Rg1 45.Kf3 Ra1

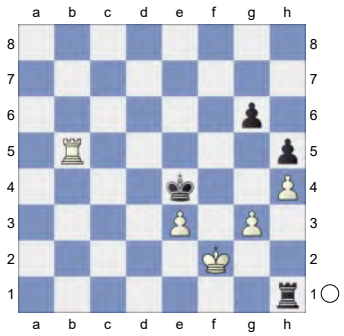
(Diagram)



46.Rb2 Threatens to win with Rb6.
46...Rf1+ 47.Ke2 Rh1

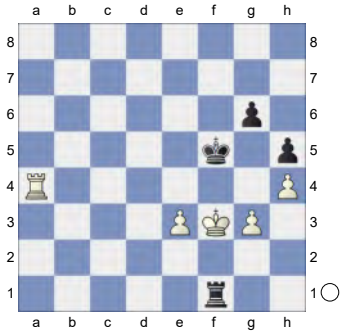


Hoping for ...Rh2+. **48.Rb4 Rg1 49.Kf2 Rh1 50.Rb5+ Ke4**

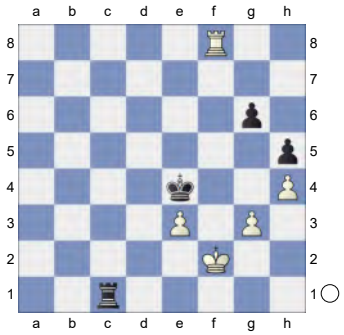


51.Rb4+ 0.01/27
[White should play 51.Kg2± 0.53/30 Ra1 52.Rb6]
51...Ke5!= 52.Rf4 Rh2+ 53.Kf3 Rh1! 54.Re4+ Kf5 55.Ra4 Rf1+

(Diagram)



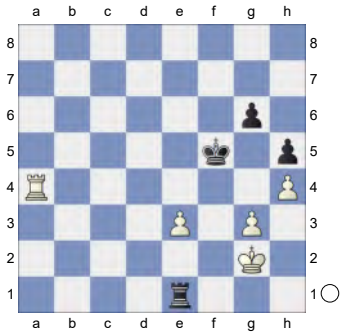
56.Ke2 Rg1 57.Kf2 Rh1 58.Ra6 Rb1 59.Ra8 Rc1 60.Rf8+ Ke4



61.Rf4+ Ke5 62.Ra4 Kf5 63.Ke2 -0.01/24

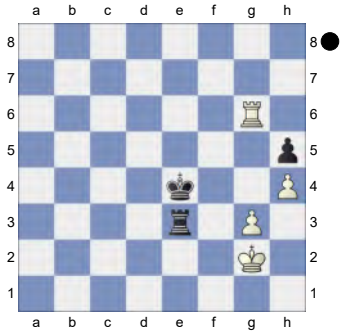
[63.Rb4± 0.54/28]

63...Rg1! 64.Kf3 Black should prevent e4+. **64...Rf1+ 65.Kg2! Re1**

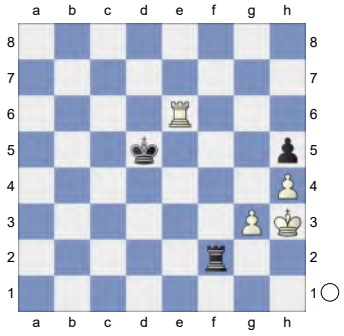


66.Ra5+ Ke4 67.Rg5! Rxe3 68.Rxg6

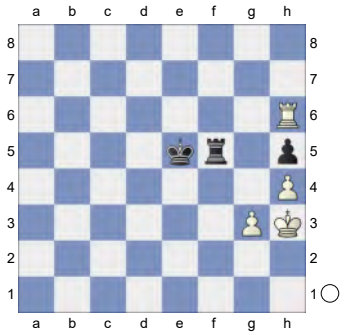
(Diagram)



And now Rg5 would win. **68...Re2+ 69.Kh3** Black must now prevent Re6+. **69...Rf2 70.Re6+ Kd5**



71.Ra6 Strongly threatening Ra5+. **71...Rf5 72.Kg2 Ke4 73.Rb6 Ke5 74.Kh3 Ke4 75.Rh6 Ke5**

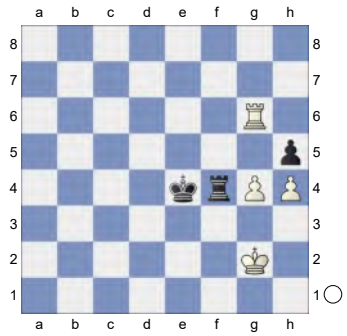


76.Rg6 Ke4 77.g4 0.01/28

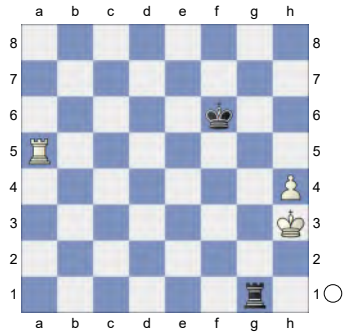
[77.Rc6± 0.55/27]

77...Rf3+ The position is equal. **78.Kg2 Rf4 79.Kg3 Rf3+ 80.Kg2 Rf4**

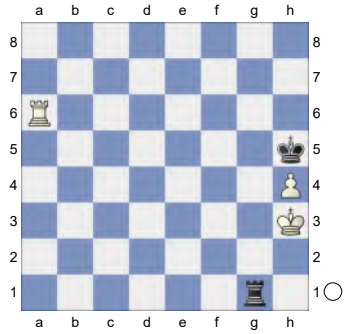
(Diagram)



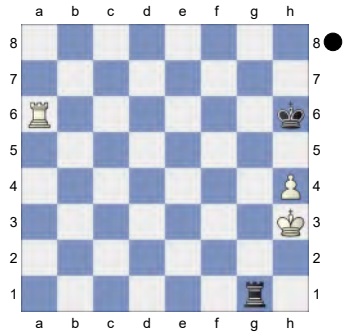
81.Re6+ Kd5 82.Rh6 Rxg4+ 83.Kh3 Rg1 84.Rxh5+ Ke6 85.Ra5 Kf6



86.Ra6+ Kg7 87.Ra7+ Kh6 88.Ra6+ Kh5 89.Ra5+ Kh6 90.Ra6+ Kh5



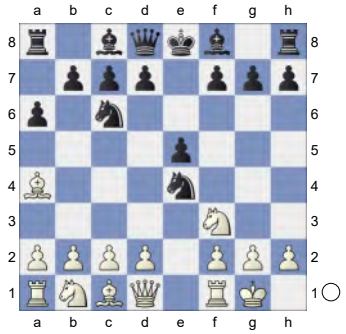
91.Ra5+ Kh6 92.Ra6+



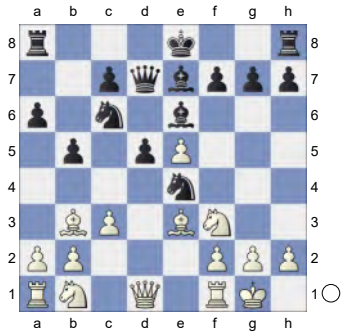
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

73 **C83**
□ **Navara,David** **2689**
■ **Svane,Frederik** **2626**
FIDE Grand Swiss (6) 30.10.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
Daniliuk,S: 'Inf 69/327' 'Daniliuk,S: 'Inf 69/327" **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Qd7



11.Nbd2 Rd8 12.h3 0-0 13.Bc2 Bf5! outshines the older 13...f5.erfolgreicher als das alte 13...f5. **14.Nb3N** White has an edge.
[14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qxd7 Rxd7 17.e6 Rd3 18.exf7+ Rxf7 19.Nd2 Bc5 20.Bxc5 Rxd2 21.b4 Ne5 22.Rfd1 Rfd7 23.Rxd2

Rxd2 24.a4 Nd3 25.axb5 axb5 26.Ra8+ Kf7 27.Rf8+ Kg6 28.Be3 Rc2 Bologan,V (2575)-Daniliuk,S (2410) Krasnodar 1997 CI1-130 [Daniliuk,Stanislav] ½-½ (57) 29.Bd4 Nc1 30.Kh2 Ne2 31.Be5 Nxc3 32.Rg8 Nd5 33.Rxg7+ Kf5 34.Bd4 Nxb4 35.Re7 c5 36.Bh8 Nd3 37.g4+ Kg6 38.Kg3 Rxf2 39.Rg7+ Kf6 40.Rd7+ Ke6 41.Rxd3 Rf8 42.Rc3 Rxh8 43.Rxc5 Rb8 Bologan,V (2665)-Bareev,E (2711) Sochi 2004 EXT 2020 [Finkel, Alexander] ½-½ (57)]

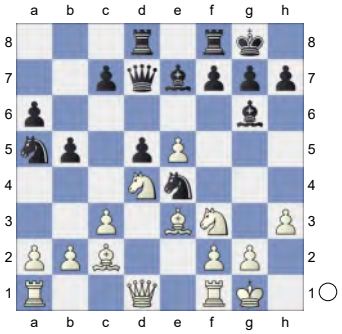
14...Bg6N

[Vorgänger: 14...Rfe8 15.Rc1 Bg6 16.Re1 f6 0.17/20 *(16...Bh5!* -0.15/19 was preferrable.*)* 17.exf6= Bxf6 18.Bd3 Bh5 19.Bd4 -1.27/21 *(19.Be2=* 0.16/18 *)* 19...Bxf3 0.18/20 *(19...Nxd4∓* -1.27/21 *20.cxd4 Qd6)* 20.Qxf3= Bxd4 0.84/20 *(20...Nxd4=* 0.24/19 keeps the balance. *21.cxd4 a5)* 21.cxd4 1-0 Szalanczy,E (2325)-Lacrosse,M (2185) Vienna op 17th 2011 (7)]

15.Nbd4 -0.27/19

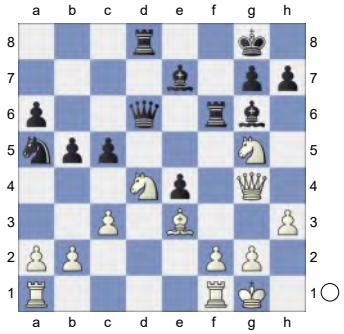
[15.Qe2 0.06/17 deserves consideration.]

15...Na5!=

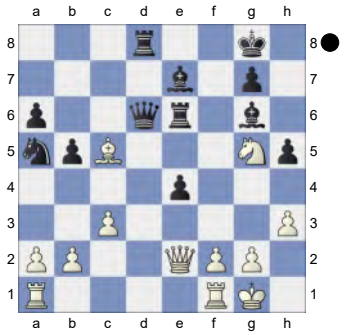


16.e6 Qd6 17.Bxe4 dxe4 18.exf7+! Rxf7 19.Ng5 Rf6 ...Nc4 is the strong threat. **20.Qg4 c5**

(Diagram)



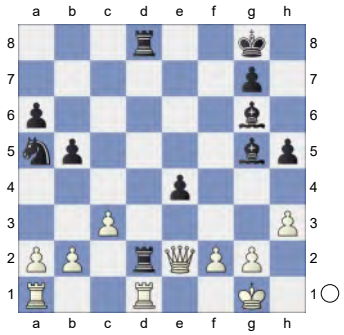
aiming for ...h5. **21.Nde6 h5 22.Qe2 Rxe6 23.Bxc5**



Bxg5! 24.Bxd6 Rexd6 25.Rfd1 -1.83/21

[25.Rad1∓ -1.25/21]

25...Rd2-+



26.Qe1 -4.01/23

[26.Qf1 -1.99/22 was worth a try.]

26...Nc4 27.b3 -5.18/24

[27.Rxd2 -3.55/20 is a better defense. Rxd2 28.b3]

27...Nb2 28.Rxd2 Rxd2

[28...Bxd2 29.Qe2 Bxc3 30.Rc1∓]

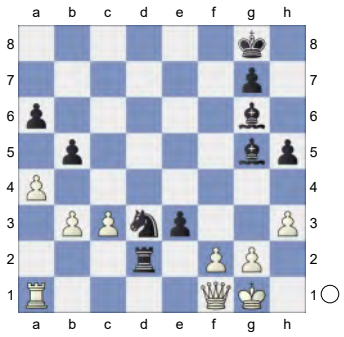
29.Qf1 -5.16/21

[⌓29.f3 -3.51/21 Bf4 30.fxe4]

29...Nd3 30.a4 -6.75/23

[⌓30.c4 -4.34/19 Bf6 31.Rd1 Rxa2 32.cxb5 axb5 33.g4]

30...e3

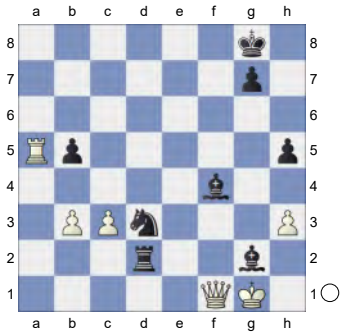


31.fxe3 Bxe3+ 32.Kh2 Be4 Prevents Qf3. **33.axb5 axb5 34.Ra5** -7.95/24

[⌓34.Rd1 -4.75/24 Bxg2 35.Qxd3 Bf4+ 36.Kg1 Rxd3 37.Rxd3]

34...Bf4+ A strong pair of Bishops.

35.Kg1 Bxg2



Overworked Piece **36.Qxg2** Black must now prevent Qd5+. **36...Rd1+**

[36...Rxg2+ 37.Kxg2 Be5 38.Rxb5∓]

37.Qf1 Be3+

[Stronger than 37...Rxf1+ 38.Kxf1 Be5 39.Rxb5 Bxc3 40.Rxh5=]

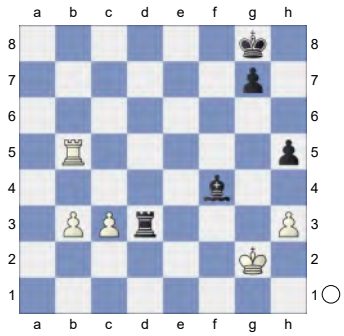
38.Kg2 Intending Ra8+ and mate.

38...Nf4+

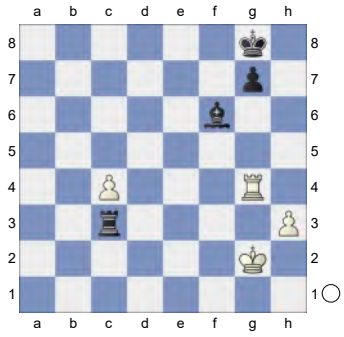
[Not 38...Rxf1 39.Kxf1 Nf4 40.Rxb5=]

39.Qxf4 Bxf4 40.Rxb5 Endgame KRB-KR **40...Rd3**

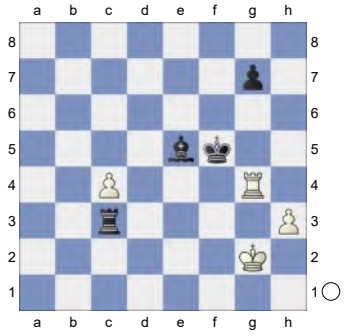
(Diagram)



41.Rf5 Bd2 42.c4 Rxb3 43.Rxh5 Rc3 44.Rh4 Black is clearly winning. **44...Bg5 45.Rg4 Bf6**



46.Re4 Kf7 47.Kh2 Kg6 48.Kg2 Kf5 49.Rg4 Be5



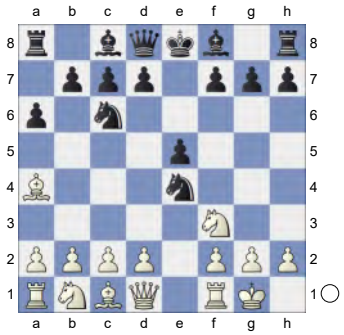
White got outplayed after the opening. Weighted Error Value: White=0.48/ Black=0.21 (precise)

0-1

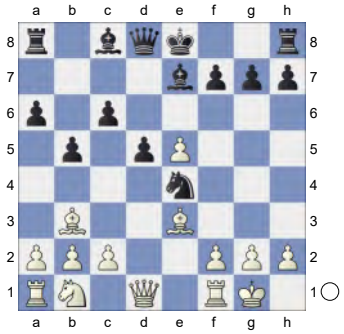
74 **C80**
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2735**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu**
85th Tata Steel Masters (2.5) 15.01.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2

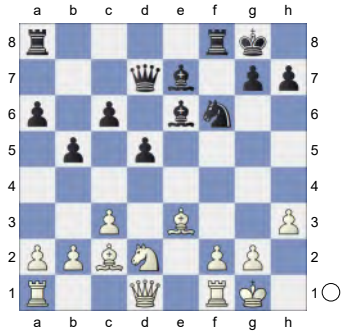
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



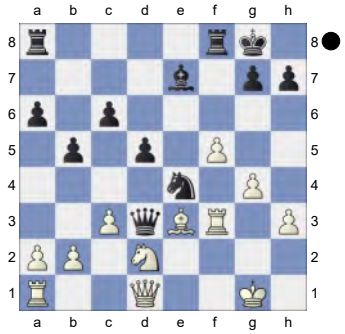
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.dxe5 c6 10.Be3 Be7



11.c3 0-0 12.Bc2 f5 13.exf6
The position is equal.
[13.f3 f4 14.Bd4 Ng5 15.Nd2 c5 16.Bf2 Bf5 17.Nb3 Ne6 18.Re1 Qd7 19.Qd2 Rad8 20.a4 bxa4 21.Nc1 Bxc2 22.Qxc2 d4 23.cxd4 Nxd4 24.Qc4+ Qd5 25.Qxa4 Ne6 26.Ne2 c4 27.Nc3 Qd7 Nikolin,Z (2406)-Kravitz,N (2574) Enghien les Bains 2022 CBM 087 Extra [John Watson] 1-0 (53)]
13...Nxf6 14.h3 Inhibits Ng4. **14...Be6N**
[14...Bd6 15.Nd2 Be6 16.f4 Re8 17.Qf3 c5 18.Rae1 Bf7 19.Bf2 Qc7 20.g3 Bh5 21.Qg2 Be2 22.Ne4 Bxf1 23.Nxf6+ gxf6 24.Qxd5+ Kh8 25.Rxf1 Rad8 26.Qh5 Bf8 27.Rd1 Rxd1+ 28.Qxd1 Qf7 29.b3 Ac,M Soviet Union 200 Traps In The Opening [Solution 4] (32) c4 30.bxc4 bxc4 31.h4 f5 32.Qf3 Nimzo Indian Early Devia-4...b6 5.Nge2 Ne4 6.Bd2 Nxd2 Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 - 2023 (32)]
15.Nd2 Qd7

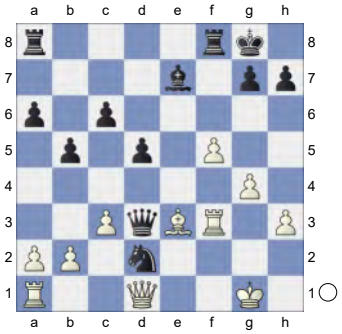


16.f4 -0.26/19
[16.Re1± 0.32/18]
16...Bf5= 17.Bxf5 Qxf5 18.g4 Qd3 19.Rf3 Ne4 0.00/19
[Black should play 19...Rae8∓ -0.61/19]
20.f5

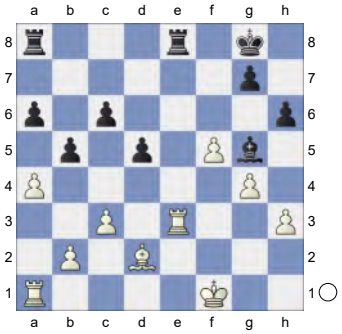


aiming for Bf4. **20...Nxd2!**

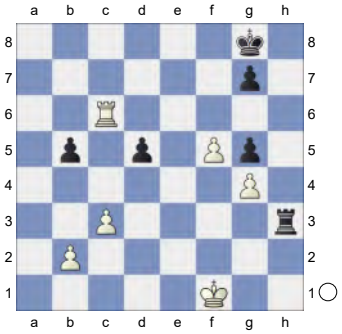
(Diagram)



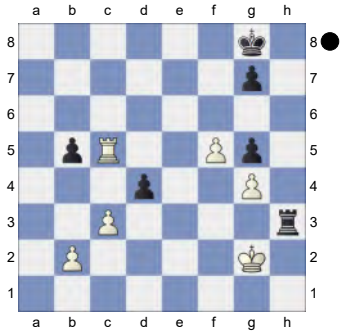
21.Qxd2 Qxd2
[21...Qe4 looks sharper. 22.Raf1 c5 23.Rf4 Qe5]
22.Bxd2 Rfe8 23.Kf1 Bh4 24.a4 h6 25.Re3 Bg5



26.Rxe8+
[26.Re2 is more complex. Kf7 27.Kf2 Bxd2 28.Rxd2 g6 29.axb5]
26...Rxe8 27.Bxg5 hxg5 28.axb5 axb5± KR-KR 29.Ra6 Re3 30.Rxc6 Rxh3



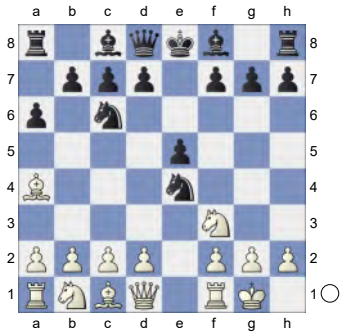
31.Rc5 d4 0.40/25
[31...Rh4= 0.00/21]
32.Kg2 0.01/24
[32.cxd4± 0.40/25 Rb3 33.Kf2]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

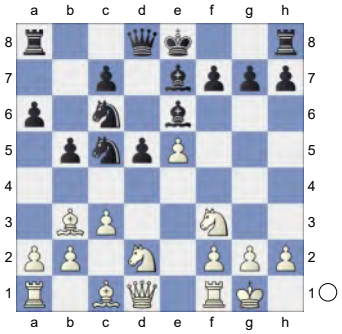
75 **C83**
□ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2756**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2747**
37th ECC Open 2022 (4.1) 06.10.2022
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

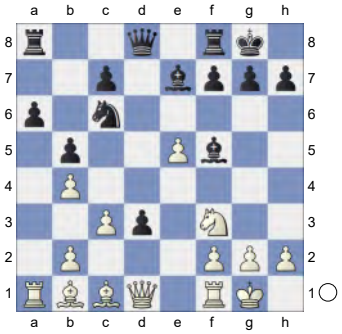


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 Nc5

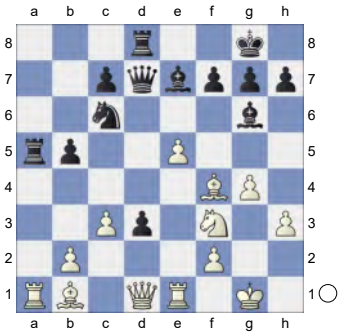
(Diagram)



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.b4 0-0**

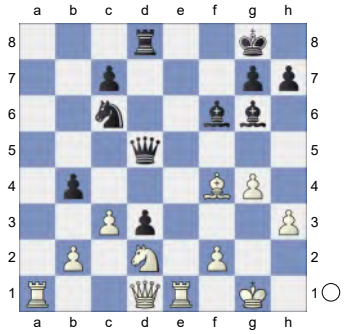


16.Re1 Qd7 17.h3 Rfd8 18.g4 Bg6 19.Bf4 a5 0.35/21
[19...Qc8= 0.01/22 was preferrable.]
20.bxa5± Rxa5

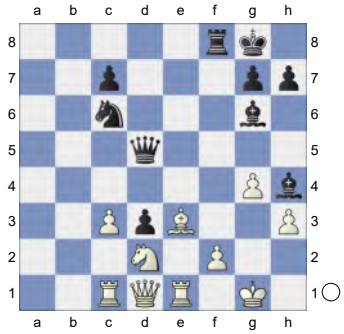


21.Ba2! next e6 is good for White.
21...Rxa2 22.Rxa2 Qd5 23.Ra1 b4 1.12/19
[23...h6= 0.16/19 keeps the balance.]
24.Nd2!± f6 25.exf6 Bxf6

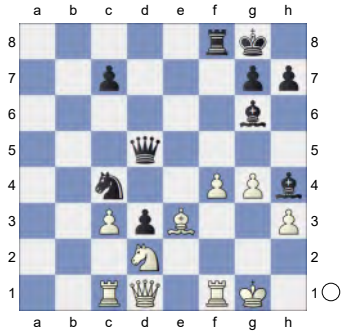
(Diagram)



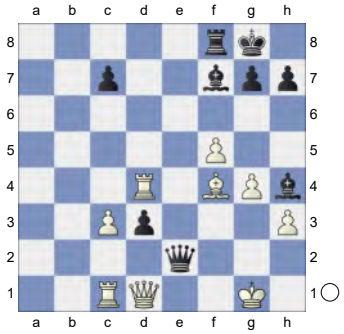
26.Rc1 Rf8N 27.Be3 0.26/20
[Better is 27.Qb3!± 0.89/21 Qxb3 28.Nxb3]
27...bxc3 28.bxc3 Bh4 1.21/18
[28...Qd7!= 0.17/20]



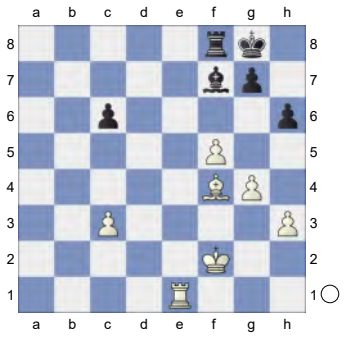
29.Rf1 0.24/19
[29.Rb1!± 1.21/18]
29...Ne5 0.64/21
[29...h6= 0.24/19]
30.f4± Nc4



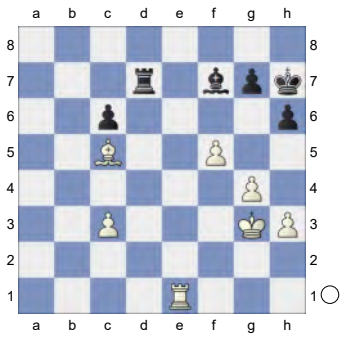
31.Nxc4 Qxc4 32.f5 Bf7 Threatens to win with ...Re8. **33.Rf4! Qd5** 1.46/23
[33...Qc6!± 0.60/22]
34.Rd4± Qe5 35.Bf4 Qe2
(Diagram)



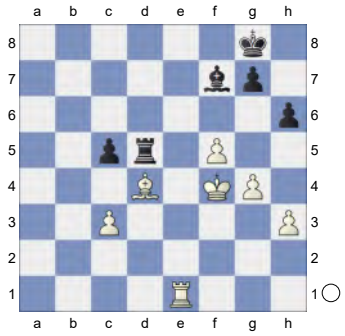
36.Qxe2
[36.Qxd3 Qf2+ 37.Kh1 c5±]
36...dxe2 37.Re4 e1Q+ 38.Rcxe1
[38.Rexe1 Bxe1 39.Rxe1 Re8±]
38...Bxe1 39.Rxe1+- Endgame KRB-KRB **39...c6** 1.77/22
[39...Re8± 1.28/20 40.Rd1 c6]
40.Kf2 h6



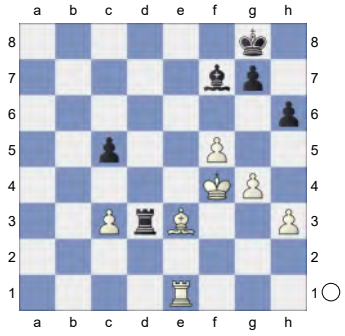
41.Re7 Bd5 2.37/24
[41...Rd8 1.77/24 was worth a try. 42.Rc7 Rd3]
42.Kg3 Rf7 43.Re1 &Bianco is more active. **43...Kh7** 2.36/25
[⌓43...Rd7 1.74/26 44.Re8+ Kf7]
44.Bd6 Rd7 45.Bc5 Bf7



46.Re3 Rd5 47.Bb6 Kg8 1.69/24
[47...g6± 1.37/23]
48.Kf4 Rb5 2.17/24
[48...Rd1± 1.54/23 was necessary. 49.Bd4 Kf8]
49.Bd4 Rd5 50.Re1 c5

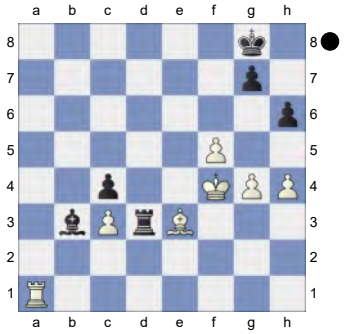


51.Be3 Rd3



52.Rc1
[Don't take 52.Bxc5 Rxc3 53.Be3 Bd5±]
52...Bb3 2.38/23
[52...g5+ 1.79/21 keeps fighting. 53.fxg6 Bxg6]
53.h4
[Don't play 53.Bxc5?! Rd1 54.Rxd1 Bxd1]
53...c4? 5.44/28
[53...Bd5 2.40/21 is more resistant. 54.Bxc5 Bc6]
54.Ra1

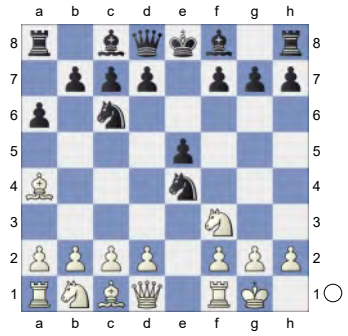
(Diagram)



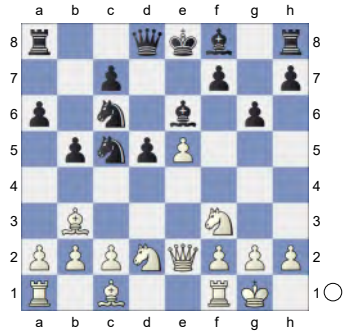
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.32
1-0

76 **C80**
☐ **Niemann,Hans Moke** **2699**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2741**
13th World Teams Pool B rapid (2.2)
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
JvR: 'One million dollars were at stake in the world championship, a record in chess. The match was played in Baguio, summer resort of Marcos, president of the Philippines. Six wins were needed for the victory. Draws did not count.'
JvR: 'One million dollars were at stake in the world championship, a record in chess. The match was played in Baguio, summer resort of Marcos, president of the Philippines. Six wins were needed for the victory. Draws did not count.'
Garry Kasparov: 'In addition there also followed an opening surprise:
In addition there also followed an opening surprise:
Doe,John: 'JvR: 'One million dollars were at stake in the world championship, a record in chess. The match was played in Baguio, summer resort of Marcos, president of the Philippines. Six wins were needed for the victory. Draws did not count.'" **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**



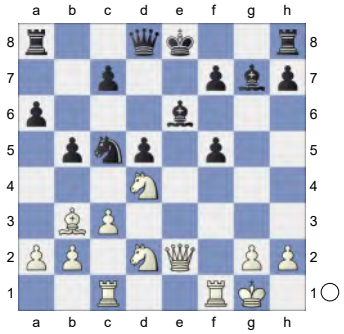
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.Qe2 g6



11.c3 Bg7! 12.Nd4 The position is equal. **12...Nxe5 13.f4 Ned3**
[13...Nc4 14.f5 gxf5 15.Nxf5 Rg8 16.Nxc4 dxc4 17.Bc2 Nd3 18.Bh6 Bf8 19.Rad1 Qd5 20.Bxd3 cxd3 21.Rxd3 Qc6 22.Bxf8 Qb6+ 23.Kh1 Kxf8 24.Qf3 Re8 25.Nh6 Rg7 26.Rd7 Rb8 27.Nxf7 Bxd7 28.Nd8+ Karpov,A (2725)-Kortschnoj,V (2665) Baguio 1978 [Filip,M] 1-0]
14.f5! Pin **14...Nxc1N**
[14...gxf5 15.Nxf5 Rg8 16.Bc2 Qg5 17.Nxg7+ Rxg7 18.Nf3 Nxc1 19.Raxc1 Qg4 20.g3 Ne4 21.Qg2 Qh5 22.Rfe1 0-0-0 23.Bxe4 dxe4 24.Rxe4 Bd5 25.Rf4 Qh6 26.Re1 Qxf4 27.gxf4 Rxg2+ 28.Kxg2 Bxa2 29.Kf2 Azarov,S (2588)-Nihal,S (2646) Sharjah 152/97 2022

[Perunovic,Milos] 0-1 (71)]

15.Raxc1 gxf5



16.Nxf5 Bf6 0.76/17

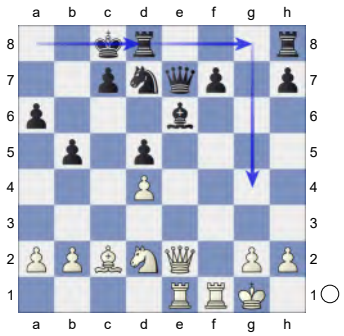
[16...Rg8± 0.31/19]

17.Bc2 Nd7 18.Nd4 Pair of Knights!

18...Qe7 19.Rce1 0.14/21

[19.N2b3± 0.68/19]

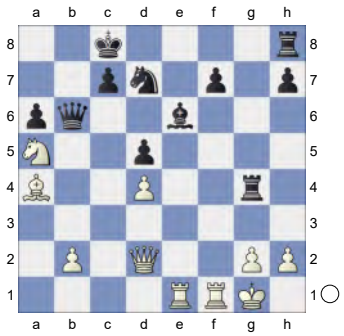
19...Bxd4+= 20.cxd4 0-0-0!



21.Nb3 Qd6 22.a4 bxa4 23.Na5 Qb6 24.Qd2 Rdg8!

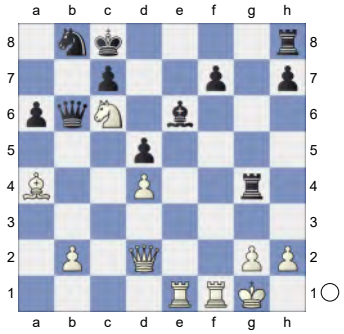
[24...Qxb2 25.Rb1 Qa3 26.Qe2+-]

25.Bxa4 aiming for Re3. **25...Rg4!⇄**

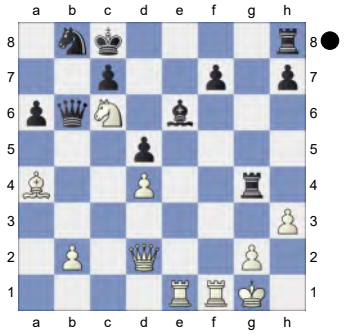


Black is not keeping still **26.Nc6 Nb8**

(Diagram)



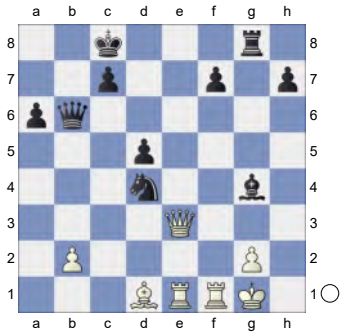
27.h3!



Nxc6 28.hxg4 And now Bxc6 would win. **28...Nxd4 29.Qe3** -0.77/19 Against Nf3+

[29.Kh1= -0.10/17]

29...Rg8∓ 30.Bd1 Bxg4



&Nero is more active. **31.Rf2 Bxd1** -0.47/21

[31...f5∓ -1.09/21 32.Rf4 Bxd1 33.Qxd4 Qxd4+ 34.Rxd4 Bf3]

32.Rxd1∓ Rg4

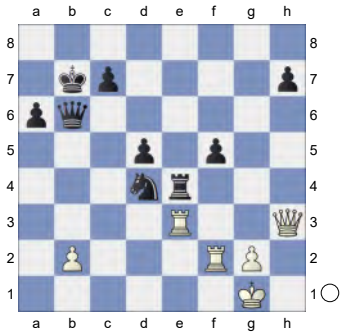
[Resist 32...c5 33.Qe7±]

33.Rd3 Re4 Against Qe5 **34.Qh3+** -1.57/22

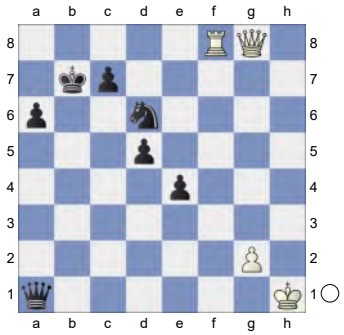
[34.Qg5∓ -0.65/21 Qc5 35.Qf6]

34...Kb7 Hoping for ...Ne2+. **35.Re3**

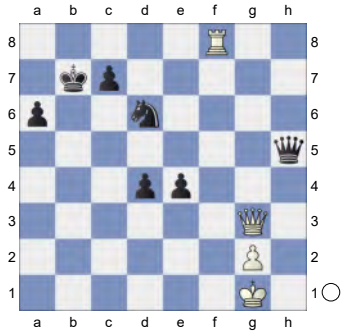
-1.78/23 Against Ne2+
[35.Qd7∓ -1.35/21 might work better. Qe6 36.Qxf7 (36.Rxf7? Re1+ 37.Kh2 Qe5+ 38.Rg3 Ne2-+)]
35...f5



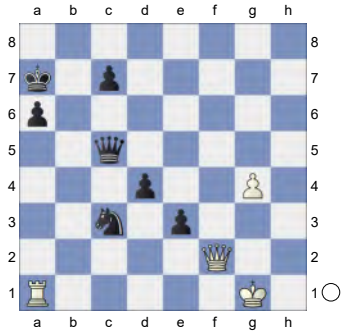
36.Kh1 Nb5 -0.63/21
[Black should try 36...Qb4-+ -1.77/19 37.Rxe4 fxe4]
37.Rxe4 -1.88/20
[Better is 37.Ref3∓ -0.63/21]
37...fxe4 Endgame KQR-KQN
[And not 37...Qxf2 38.Re5∓]
38.Rf8 Nd6 Prevents Qc8+. **39.Qxh7** -3.28/18
[⌓39.Qe6 -2.05/18 Qd4 40.Kh2]
39...Qxb2-+ 40.Qg8 Qa1+



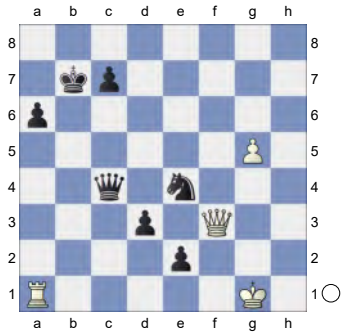
41.Kh2 Qe5+ 42.Qg3 Qh5+ 43.Kg1 Qd1+ -1.70/19
[⌓43...d4 -3.72/19 44.Rf1 Qc5]
44.Kh2 Qh5+? 0.01/17
[44...Qd3-+ -2.16/19 White must now prevent ...e3. 45.Qe5 Kc6]
45.Kg1= d4
[Don't blunder 45...Qd1+? 46.Rf1 Qd4+ 47.Kh2-+]



Strongly threatening ...d3. **46.Rf1 Qc5 47.Rb1+ Ka7 48.Qf2 Nb5 49.Ra1 Nc3 50.g4 e3**

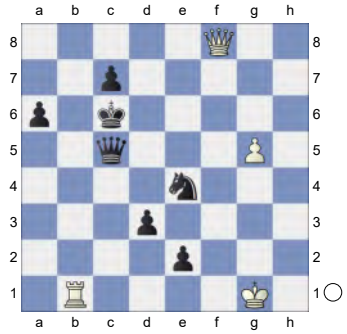


51.Qf6 Qc4 52.Qe5 e2 53.g5? -14.08/21
[53.Rc1 -3.27/19 Ka8 54.Kh2]
53...d3-+ 54.Qe3+ Kb7 55.Qf3+ Ne4



56.Rb1+ Kc6 (-> ...d2) **57.Qf8 Qc5+**

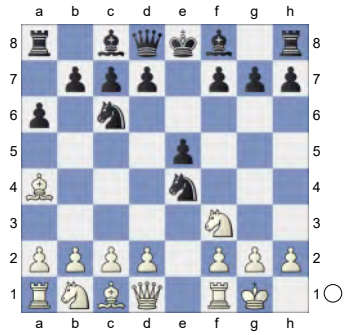
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.59/ Black=0.27 (precise)
0-1

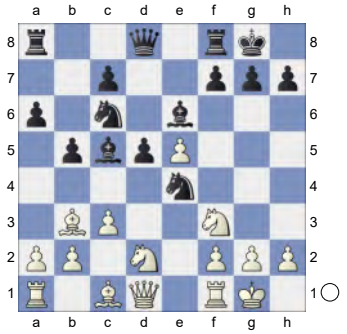
77 **C82**
☐ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2732**
■ **Lysyj,Igor** **2589**
Wch Rapid Samarkand (11) 28.12.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

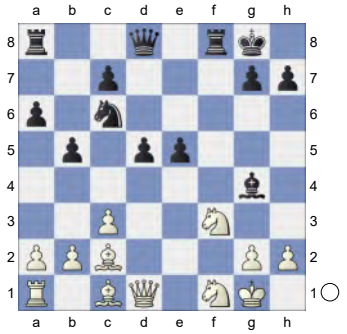


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0

(Diagram)



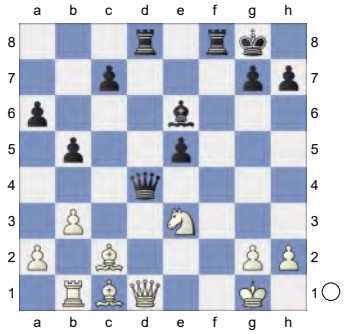
11.Bc2 Nxf2 12.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 13.Kxf2 The position is equal. **13...f6 14.Kg1 fxe5 15.Nf1 Bg4** 0.57/21
[15...h6= 0.18/19]



16.Ne3± Be6 17.b3 d4
[17...Kh8 18.Ba3 Rf4 19.Bc5 d4 20.cxd4 exd4 21.Qd3 Bg8 22.Nf5 Qd5 23.Ba3 Re8 24.Rd1 Rfe4 25.Ng3 Re3 26.Qd2 R3e6 27.Bb2 Rd8 28.Nxd4 Qc5 29.Ne4 Qe7 30.Qe3 Nxd4 31.Rxd4 Rxd4 32.Qxd4 Carlsen,M (2862)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2757) Wijk aan Zee NED 2015 [Glenn Flear] ½-½ (51)]
18.cxd4
[18.Qd3 g6 19.cxd4 Nxd4 20.Bb2 Nxf3+ 21.gxf3 Rxf3 22.Qe2 Qg5+ 23.Ng2 Raf8 24.h4 Qg3 25.Bxe5 Qg4 26.Re1 Bd5 27.Bd1 Qf5 28.Bd4 Rg3 29.Bc2 Qd7 0-1 (29) Firouzja,A (2777)-Nakamura,H (2787) Chess.com INT 2023]
18...Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Qxd4N
[19...exd4 20.Bb2 dxe3 *(20...c5*

21.Qh5 h6 22.Qg6 Rf6 23.Qh7+ Kf7 24.Bd1 10. Ruy Lopez Open (4. Ba4 Nf6-Open 6...b5,9) 21.Qh5 g6 22.Bxg6 Qe7 23.Re1 Rf2 24.Rxe3 Rxb2 25.Bxh7+ Kg7 26.Rg3+ Kf8 27.Be4 10. Ruy Lopez Open (4.Ba4 Nf6-Open 6...b5,9]

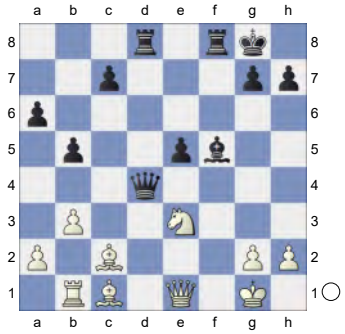
20.Rb1 Rad8



21.Qe1 0.10/24

[White should try 21.Qe2± 0.69/23]

21...Bf5!=



Hoping for ...Bxc2. **22.Bb2!** **Qb6**

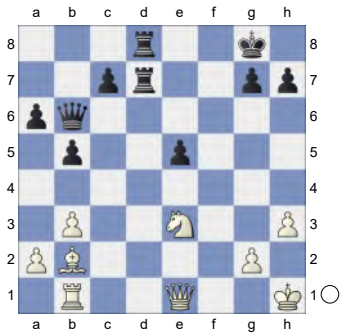
23.Bxf5 Rxf5 24.Kh1 Rf7 25.h3

[Much weaker is 25.Bxe5 Qe6 26.Bb2 Rd3∓]

25...Rfd7 0.57/21

[25...e4= 0.01/22]

(Diagram)



26.Rc1± White has compensation.

26...e4 27.b4 0.24/22

[27.Be5± 0.69/22 is superior.]

27...Qe6 0.56/21

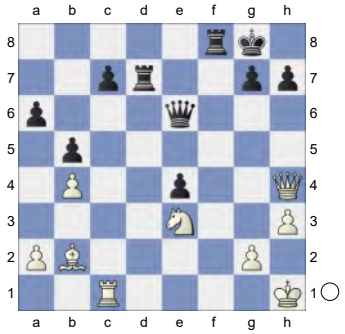
[27...Qh6= 0.24/22 deserves consideration.]

28.Qh4 0.01/23

[28.Rc5± 0.56/21]

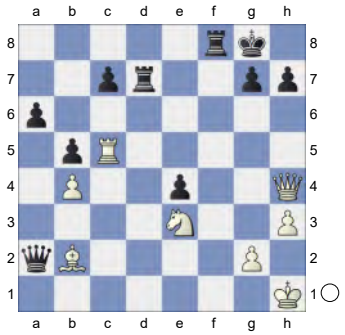
28...Rf8 0.71/22

[28...Qxa2= 0.01/23 29.Rc2 Re8]



29.Rc5!± Qxa2 1.87/25

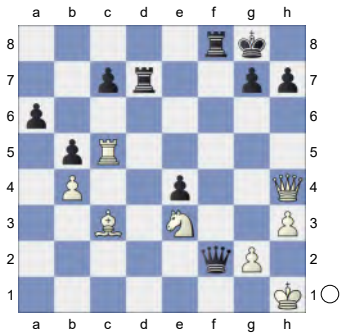
[29...c6± 0.68/22]



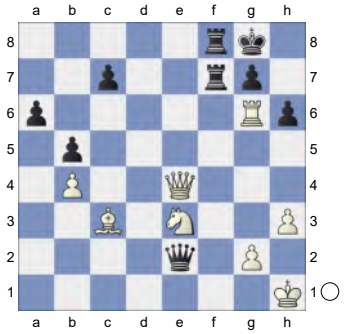
30.Bc3 0.42/22

[30.Qg4!+- 1.87/25]

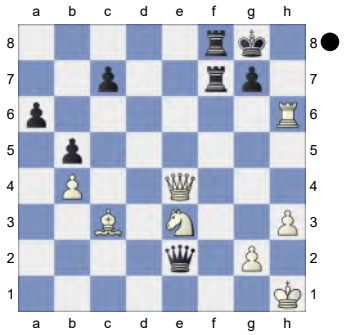
30...Qf2 1.00/23
[30...Qe6!± 0.42/22]



31.Qxe4 Rdf7? 8.46/30
[31...Qg3 1.77/26 32.Qe6+ *(32.Rh5? is a self mate. Rd1+)* 32...Rdf7]
32.Rg5+- Strongly threatening Qg4!
32...h6 33.Rg6 3.46/25
[⌓33.Rg4 8.13/27 Rd8 34.Qe6]
33...Qe2? 11.54/28
[33...Rf6 3.46/25 34.Bxf6 Rxf6]



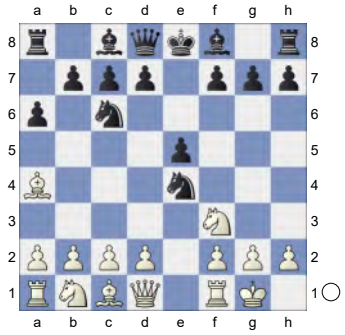
34.Rxh6!!



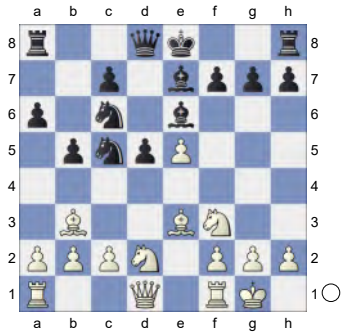
Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/
Black=0.35
1-0

78 **C80**
□ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2713**
■ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu**
85th Tata Steel Masters (6.4) 20.01.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
62/(377) Marin,M: 'Inf 62/(377)' Marin,M: 'Inf 62/(377) 62/(377) ' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.Nbd2 Nc5
[10...0-0 is interesting. 11.c3 Bg4 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Qd5 Qxd5 14.Bxd5 exf3 15.Bxc6 fxg2 16.Rfc1 Rab8]



11.Bxc5
[11.c3 Nd3 12.Qc2 Ndxe5 13.Nxe5

Nxe5 14.Bd4 Ng4 15.Bxg7 Qd6 16.Nf3 Rg8 17.Qxh7 0-0-0 18.Rae1 Qf4 19.Bd1 Bf6 20.g3 Rxg7 21.Qxg7 Qf5 22.Nd4 Bxg7 23.Nxf5 Bxf5 24.Re7 Nh6 25.Bf3 Be6 Bracker,F (2588)-Sozin,V (2466) USSR 4/335 2005 A51-A52 [Michalczak] 0-1 (38)]

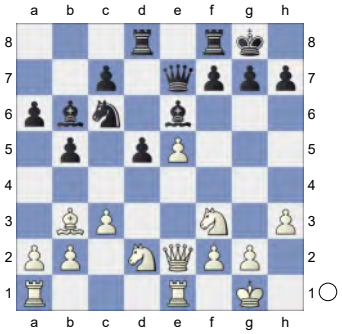
11...Bxc5 12.Qe2N

[12.c3

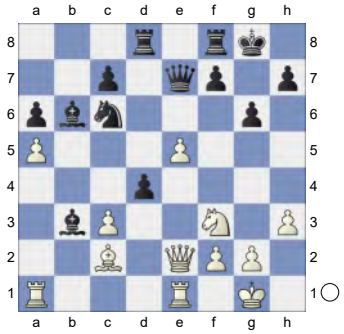
A) 12...0-0 13.Bc2 Bb6 14.Nb3 Bg4 15.Qd3 *(15.Re1 f6 16.Qd3 g6 17.exf6 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Qd6* Marjanovic,S-Stean,M Smederevska Palanka 1980*)* 15...g6 16.Nfd4 Nxe5 17.Qg3 c5 18.Qxe5 cxd4 19.Nxd4 Bc7 20.Qe3 Re8 21.Qd2 Qd6 22.g3 Bb6 23.Rfe1 b4 24.cxb4 Qf6 Chapter12 Be3-B3 10.Nbd2 Nc5 11Bc5 The Open Spanish [Mikhalevski Viktor];

B) 12...Qd7 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Rad1 Rad8 15.Bc2 Bb6 16.Ne4 Bf5 ½-½ (16) 2. The Classical 7. a4 (2430)-Mikhailov,S (2530) Leon (m/1-rapid) 85/368 1994 Telechess CBM 89 [FS 12/1979 p311]]

12...0-0 13.c3 Qe7 14.Rfe1 Bb6 15.h3 Rad8



16.Bc2 g6 17.a4 b4 18.Nb3 Threatening a5. **18...bxc3 19.bxc3** Black should prevent a5. **19...d4** Strongly threatening ...d3! **20.a5 Bxb3**



21.axb6

[Much weaker is 21.Bxb3 Nxa5 22.Ba2 dxc3∓]

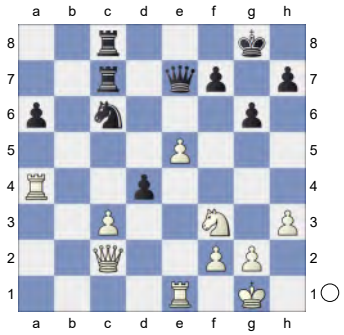
21...Bxc2 22.bxc7! Rc8 23.Qxc2 Rxc7 White must now prevent ...Nb4!

24.Ra4 Prevents Nb4.

[Wrong is 24.Rxa6? Nb4! 25.Qd1 Nxa6-+]

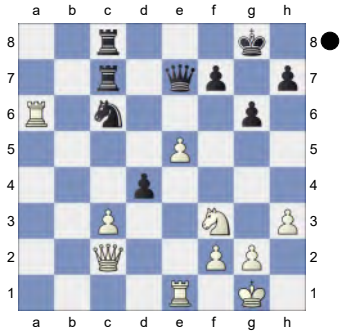
24...Rfc8 1.33/22

[Better is 24...Qc5± 0.48/19]



25.Qd2 0.54/20 &Bianco is more active.

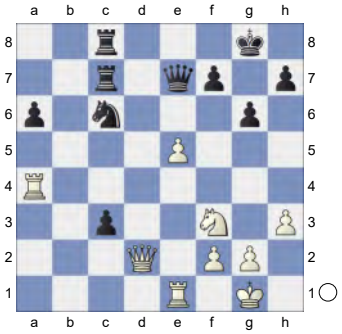
[Not 25.Rxa6?



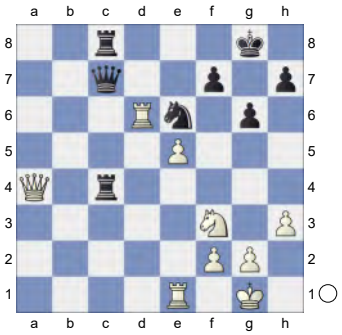
Nb4! 26.Qa4 Nxa6 27.cxd4 Nb4-+]

[25.e6!± 1.33/22]

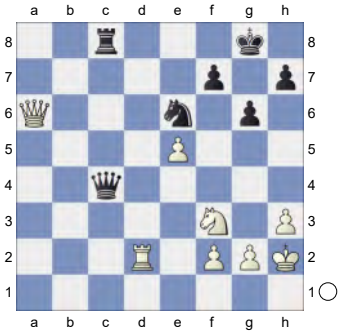
25...dxc3±



26.Qxc3 Nd8 27.Qa1 Ne6 28.Rxa6 Rc2 29.Rd6 Qc7 30.Qa4 Rc4

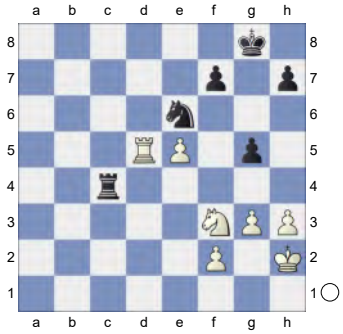


31.Qa6 Rc1 32.Rdd1 Rxd1 33.Rxd1 Qc2 34.Rd2 Qc1+ 35.Kh2 Qc4

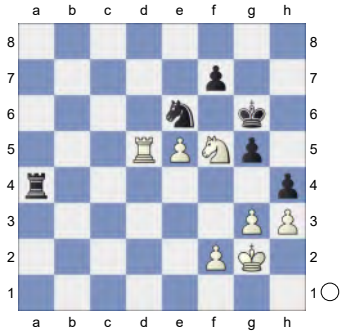


36.Qa3 Qf4+ 37.g3! Qe4 38.Qd3
[38.h4 seems wilder. h5 39.Qd3 Qb4 40.Rc2]
38...Qxd3 39.Rxd3 Endgame KRN-KRN **39...g5 40.Rd5**
[40.h4!?]
40...Rc4

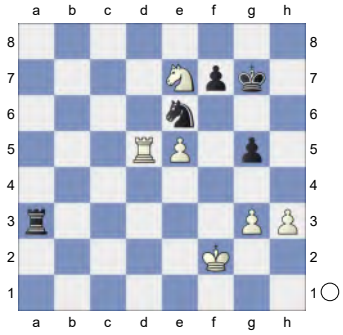
(Diagram)



41.Kg2 0.25/22
[41.h4± 0.64/22 deserves consideration.]
41...Kg7 0.83/23
[41...h5= 0.25/22 keeps the balance.]
42.Nh2 0.24/22
[42.Ra5± 0.83/23]
42...h5 43.Nf1 h4 44.Ne3 Ra4 45.Nf5+ Kg6

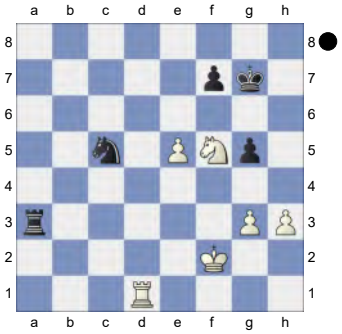


46.Ne7+ Kg7 47.Rd7 hxg3 The position is equal. **48.fxg3 Re4 49.Rd5 Ra4 50.Kf2 Ra3**



51.Rd1 Nc5 52.Nf5+ Kg6 53.Ne7+ Kg7 54.Nf5+

(Diagram)

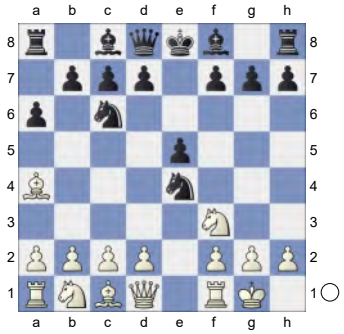


Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.07 (flawless)
½-½

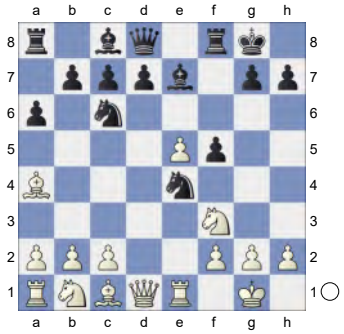
79 **C80**
□ **ScorpioNN** **3514**
■ **SlowChess Blitz 2.83 avx2** **3490**
TCEC 22 Premier 2022 (28.4) 18.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
Geller,E: 'Inf 23/296' Chapter 6...Be7 is a move which crops up now and then. The Polish IMs Sydor and Pytel seem to have done some joint homework on it and even the great Vassily Smyslov has played it now and then. Unfortunately for him he finds Jens Kristiansen well prepared in this game, with 9.Nc3 being a very interesting novelty. White's pieces become tremendously active and dominate the center the former World Champion must count himself as having been very fortunate to escape. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

(Diagram)

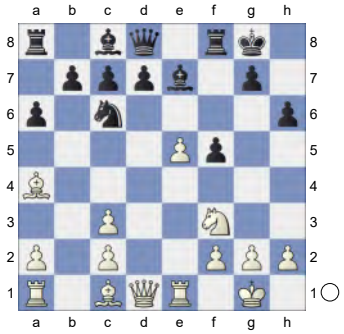


6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 f5 8.dxe5 0-0

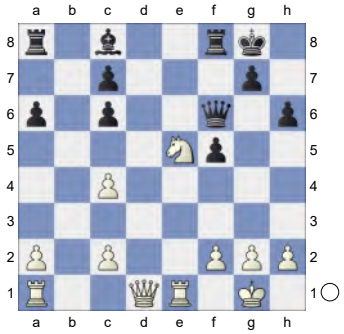


9.Nc3!
[9.Bb3+ Kh8 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.bxc3 h6 *(11...Qe8 12.Bg5* Chapter-Open Line *)* 12.a4 a5 13.Rb1 b6 14.Bd5 Bb7 15.Nd4 Rb8 16.Nb5 Bc5 17.Qh5 Qe8 18.Qxe8 Rfxe8 19.Nxc7 Rxe5 20.Bf4 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 g5 22.Na6 Rc8 23.Nxc5 bxc5 Geller,E (2590)-Kurajica,B (2530) Wijk aan Zee 1977 MCL [Bulletin] 1-0 (46)]
9...Nxc3 10.bxc3 h6N
[10...Kh8 11.c4 Na5 12.Qd3 *(12.Qe2 Nxc4 13.Qxc4 b5 14.Qd5 c6 15.Qd3 bxa4 16.Rb1 a5 17.Rd1 Ra6 18.Nd4 c5 19.Nxf5 c4 20.Qe4 d5 21.exd6 Bxd6 22.Nxd6 Rxd6 23.Rxd6 Qxd6 24.Bb2 Qf4 25.Qxf4 Rxf4 26.Be5 Rf8* Boll,P-Kolenbrander,J corr 1991 1-0 (44) *)* 12...b6 13.Be3 f4 14.Bd4 Bb7 15.Bc3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nxc4 17.Bb3 Na5 18.Bd5 c6 19.Be4 Qe8 20.Qh3 h5 21.Rad1 Rd8 22.Bf3 Qg6

23.Rxd7 Rxd7 24.Qxd7 Qg5 25.Bxa5 Line C4-3..Bg4 France 1985 200 Traps In The Opening [Chess Post 207] ½-½ (43) bxa5 26.Qxc6 Rd8 27.h3 Qf5 28.Qc7 Qd7 29.Qxd7 Rxd7 30.Bxh5 g5 31.Rd1 Rc7 32.e6 Rc6 33.Bg4 Kg7 34.Rd2 a4 35.Kf1 a3 36.Ke2 Kf6 37.Kd1 Rc5 38.Rd3 Rb5 39.Rb3 Rxb3 40.cxb3 Kristiansen,J-Smyslov,V Copenhagen 1985 [Nigel Davies] ½-½ (43)]

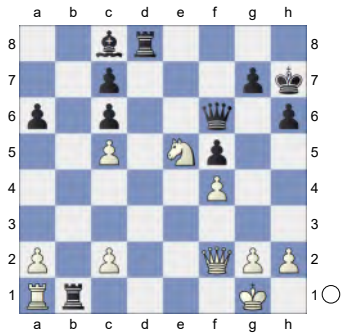


11.c4 White is better. **11...d6 12.Ba3**
[12.Bb2 seems wilder. dxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bb4 15.c3]
12...dxe5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.Nxe5 Qf6

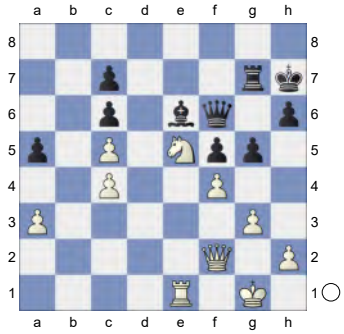


Prevents Ng6. **16.f4** 0.59/18
[16.h3± 0.96/18]
16...Rb8± 17.Qd4 Rd8 18.Qf2 Kh7 19.c5 Rb2 20.Reb1 Rxb1+

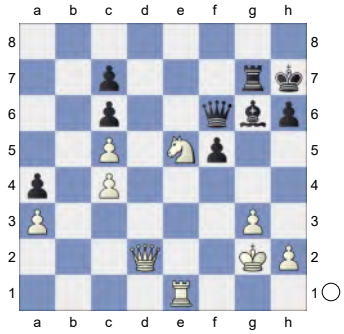
(Diagram)



21.Rxb1 g5 22.Re1 Be6 23.c4 0.70/19 Against Bd5
[23.fxg5± 1.04/21 hxg5 24.Nxc6]
23...Rg8 24.g3 Rg7 25.a3 a5

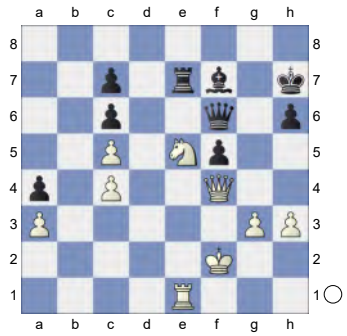


26.Qf3 Bf7 27.Kf2 gxf4 28.Qxf4 Bh5 29.Qd2 Bg6 30.Kg2 0.38/22 &Bianco is much more active.
[Much weaker is 30.Qxa5 f4 31.g4 Qh4+ 32.Kg1 Bf5∓]
[⌓30.a4 0.69/21]
30...a4!



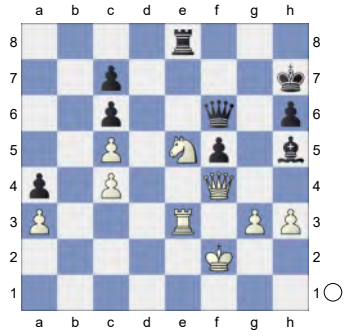
31.Kf2 Be8 32.Qd3 Re7 33.Qd4 And now Nxc6! would win. **33...Rd7 34.Qf4 Re7 35.h3 Bf7**

(Diagram)



36.Re3! Bh5 37.Qd4 Rf7 38.Re1 Rg7 39.Qf4 Re7 40.Re3 Re8 0.47/23

[40...Kg7= 0.16/22 feels stronger.]

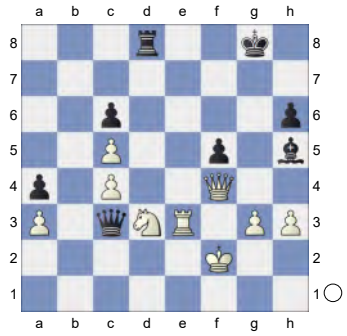


41.Nd3 Rd8 42.Qxc7+ Kg8 43.Qf4 0.09/22

[43.Qe5± 0.52/25 Kg7 44.Kg2 *(44.Nf4 Rd2+ 45.Ke1 Rd1+ 46.Kf2 Rd2+ 47.Kg1 Rd1+ 48.Kh2 Rd2+ 49.Kh1 Rd1+ 50.Kh2 Rd2+ 51.Kh1 Bf3+ 52.Kg1 Qxe5=)*]

43...Rd4!=

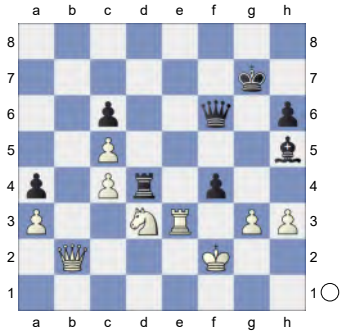
[43...Qc3?



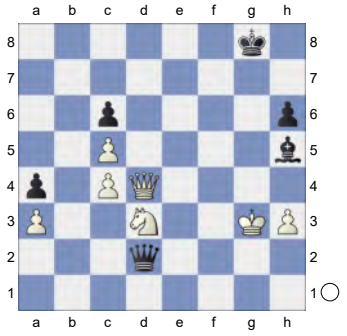
44.Qxh6! Qd2+ 45.Kg1 Qd1+ 46.Ne1+-]

44.Qb8+ Kg7 45.Qb2 Hoping for Re6!

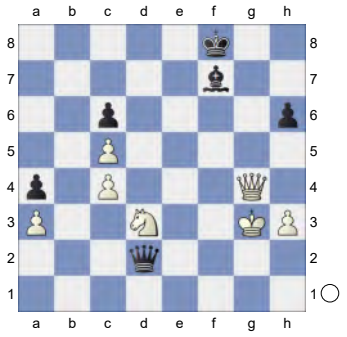
45...f4



46.Re6 fxg3+ 47.Kg1 Dancing on a razor blade. **47...Qxe6 48.Qxd4+ Kg8** White must now prevent ...Qe2. **49.Kg2 Qe2+ 50.Kxg3** The position is equal. **50...Qd2**



51.Qd8+ Kg7 52.Qe7+ Kg8 53.Qd8+ Kg7 54.Qd7+ Bf7 55.Qg4+ Kf8



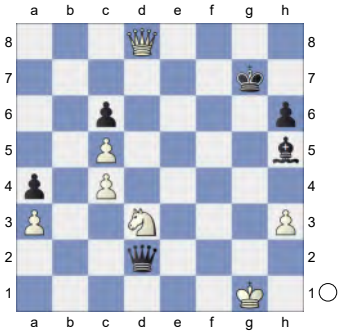
56.Qd4 Qg5+ 57.Kf3 Bh5+ 58.Kf2 Qd2+

[Don't take 58...Kg8 59.Ne5±]

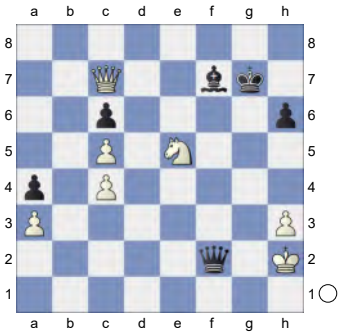
59.Kg1 Black should prevent Qf2+.

59...Kg8 60.Qd8+ Kg7

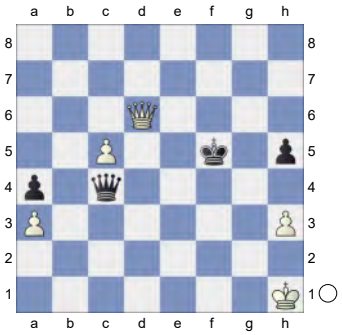
(Diagram)



61.Qc7+ Bf7 62.Ne5 Qe1+ 63.Kg2 Qe2+ 64.Kg3 Qe3+ 65.Kh2 Qf2+

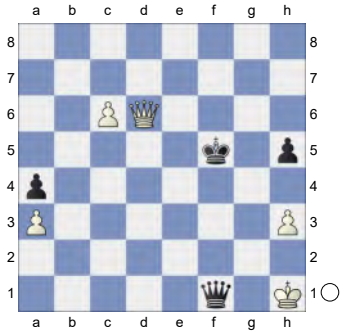


66.Kh1 h5 67.Nxf7
[67.Qd6 looks sharper. Bd5+ 68.cxd5 Qf1+ 69.Kh2]
67...Qxf7 68.Qxc6 Qxc4 Endgame KQ-KQ **69.Qd7+ Kf6 70.Qd6+ Kf5**



71.c6 Qf1+ 72.Kh2 Threatening mate with Qf8+. **72...Qf2+ 73.Kh1 Qf1+ 74.Kh2** Intending Qf8+ and mate. **74...Qf2+ 75.Kh1** White wants to mate with Qf8+. **75...Qf1+**

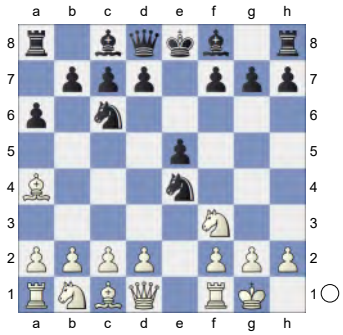
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)
½-½

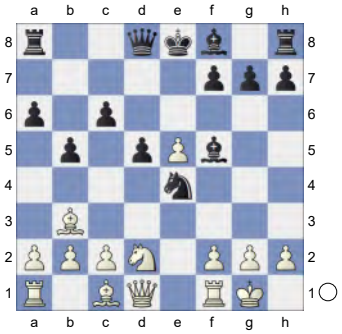
80 **C80**
□ **Wollongong2021** **3033**
■ **Elconceto** **2855**
Blitz 18.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

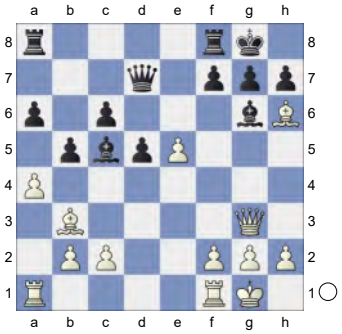


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.dxe5 c6 10.Nd2 aiming for Nxe4. **10...Bf5**
[10...Nxd2 11.Bxd2 Be7 12.Qh5 Be6 13.c3 Qd7 14.Bg5 Bf5 15.Rfe1 Bg6 16.Qh4 Bxg5 17.Qxg5 0-0 18.Rad1 Rfe8 19.Re3 Qf5 20.Qxf5 Bxf5 21.h3 h5 22.Rde1 Rad8 23.Bd1 g6 24.b4 c5 25.bxc5

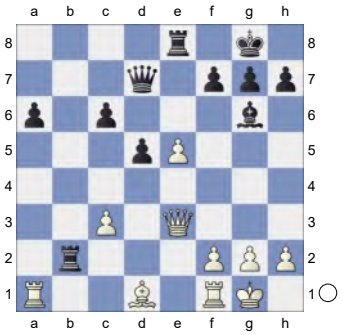
Short,N (2655)-Timman,J (2635) El Escorial 1993 CI1-130 [Timman,Jan H] ½-½ (31)]



11.Qf3N
[11.Nf3 Qd7 12.Nd4 Rd8 13.f3 Nc5 14.Bg5 Rc8 15.c3 Bg6 16.f4 Open Spanish-7...d5 9...c6 #1]
11...Qd7 12.Nxe4 The position is equal.
12...Bxe4 13.Qg3 Bc5 14.a4 0-0 15.Bh6 Bg6

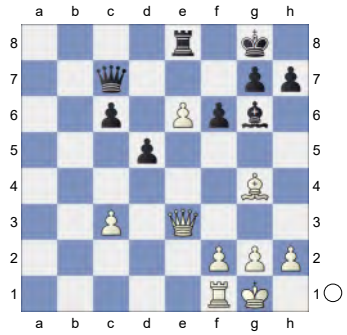


16.Be3 Bxe3 17.Qxe3 Rfe8 18.c3 Rab8 19.axb5 Rxb5 20.Bd1 Rxb2

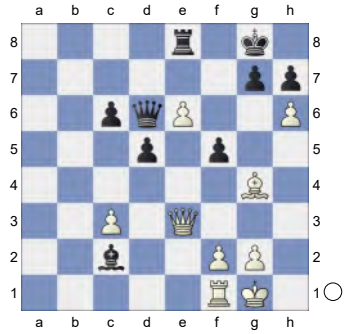


21.Rxa6 f6 0.18/20
[Black should play 21...Qc8∓ -0.41/17 22.Ra4 Rb1]

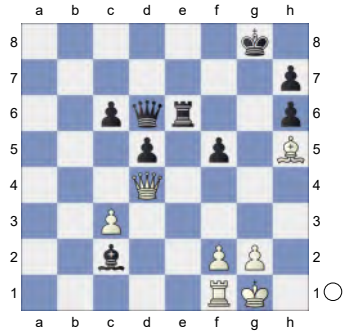
22.Ra7 -0.65/20
[22.Ba4= 0.18/20 Qb7 23.Ra7]
22...Rb7 0.31/21
[22...Qc8∓ -0.65/20 23.c4 Rxe5]
23.e6 Qc7 24.Rxb7 Qxb7 25.Bg4 Against Bf5 **25...Qc7**



26.h4 Qd6 27.h5 Bc2 1.59/19
[⌓27...f5 0.82/19]
28.h6 0.54/21
[28.Qd2± 1.59/19 Bb3 29.Re1]
28...f5±

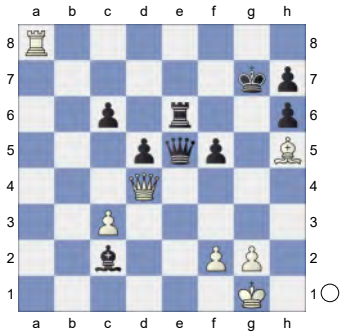


29.Qd4 gxh6
[29...Qf8 30.Bh3]
30.Bh5 Rxe6

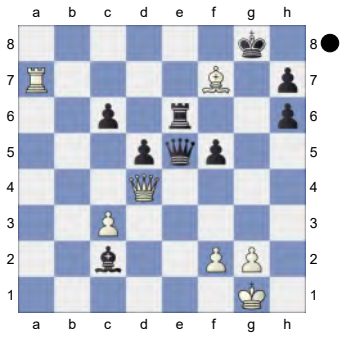


31.Ra1→ Threatens to win with Ra8+. White has some attack.

[Reject 31.Qa7 Re7 32.Qd4 Re4∓]
31...Qe5 1.44/20
[31...Qd8± 0.55/20]
32.Ra8+± White has strong compensation. **32...Kg7**



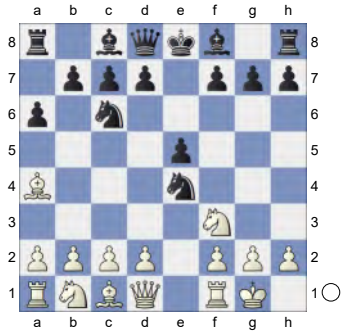
33.Ra7+! Kg8? 10.35/25
[33...Kf8± 1.31/23]
34.Bf7+



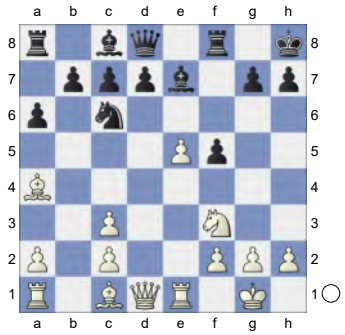
Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)
1-0

81 **C80**
□ **SlowChess Blitz 2.83 avx2** **3490**
■ **ScorpioNN** **3514**
TCEC 22 Premier 2022 (21.4) 16.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

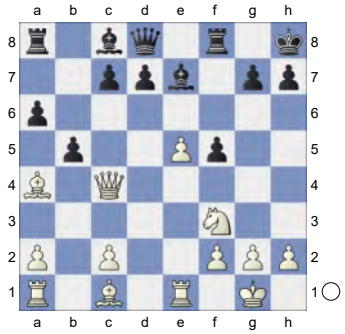
C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4
(Diagram)



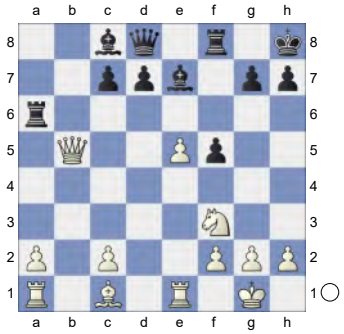
6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 f5 8.dxe5 0-0 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 Kh8



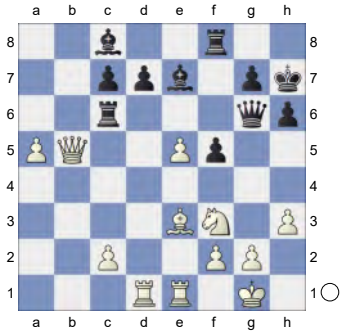
11.c4 White is better. **11...Na5 12.Qd3 Nxc4 13.Qxc4** Strongly threatening Bb3. **13...b5**



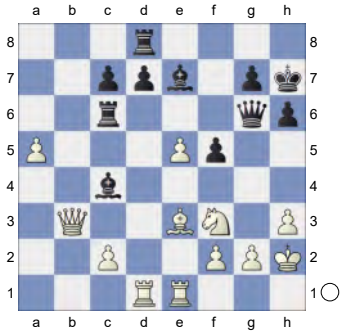
14.Bxb5N
[14.Qd5 c6 15.Qd3 bxa4 16.Rb1 a5 17.Rd1 Ra6 18.Nd4 c5 19.Nxf5 c4 20.Qe4 d5 21.exd6 Bxd6 22.Nxd6 Rxd6 23.Rxd6 Qxd6 24.Bb2 Qf4 25.Qxf4 Rxf4 26.Be5 Rf8 27.Rb5 Kg8 28.Rxa5 Bd7 Boll,P-Kolenbrander,J corr 1991 1-0 (44)]
14...axb5 15.Qxb5 Ra6
(Diagram)



16.Be3 h6 1.16/19
[Black should try 16...Rc6 0.78/17]
17.a4± Rc6 18.Rad1 Qe8 19.h3 Kh7 20.a5 0x0.002cd9bee924dp-1022s more active pieces. **20...Qg6**

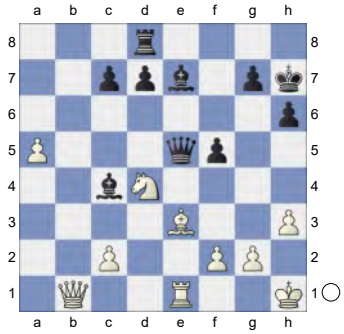


21.Kh2 Ba6 22.Qa4 Rd8 23.Qb3 Bc4 24.Qb1 Ba6 25.Qb3 -0.01/18
[25.Rd4± 0.99/21]
25...Bc4!=

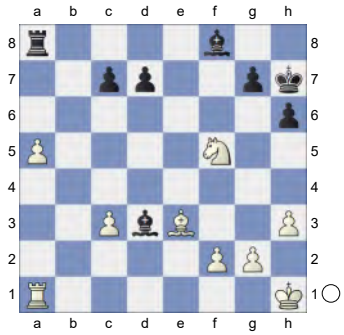


26.Qb1 -0.01/18
[26.Qb7± 0.93/19]
26...Ba6! This bishop pair is nice.
27.Kh1 Rc4 28.Rd4 Qe6 29.Rxc4 Bxc4 30.Nd4 Qxe5

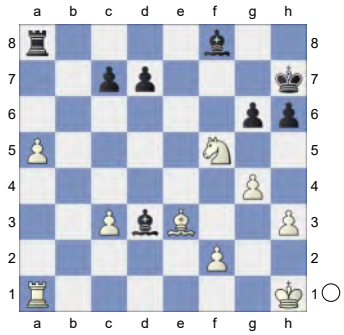
(Diagram)



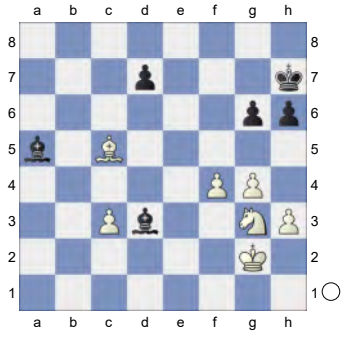
31.c3! Bf8 32.Qxf5+ Qxf5 33.Nxf5 Ra8 34.Ra1 Bd3



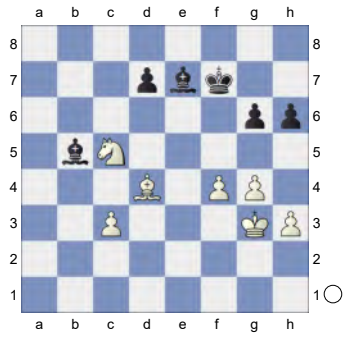
35.g4 g6



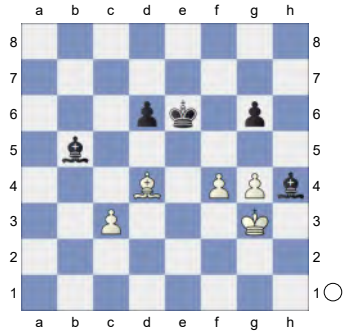
36.Ng3 Be7 37.Kg2 Bd8 38.f4 c5 39.Bxc5
[Much weaker is 39.Rd1 Bb5=]
39...Rxa5 40.Rxa5 Bxa5±



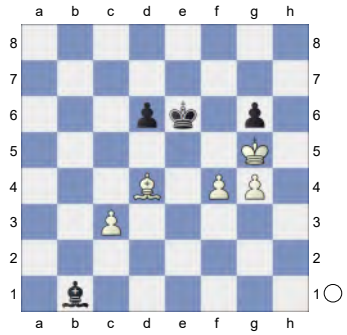
Endgame KBB-KBN **41.Bd4 Bd8 42.Kf3 Kg8 43.Ne4 Kf7 44.Nc5 Bb5 45.Kg3 Be7**



46.Nb3 h5 47.Nd2 hxg4 48.hxg4 Ke6 49.Nf3 aiming for Ne5. **49...d6** Inhibits Ne5. **50.Nh4 Bxh4+**



51.Kxh4± KB-KB **51...Ba6 52.Bg7 Kf7 53.Bh8 Ke6 54.Kg5 Bd3 55.Bd4 Bb1**



56.Bg7 Kf7 57.Bh8 Ke6! 58.Bg7 0.01/27

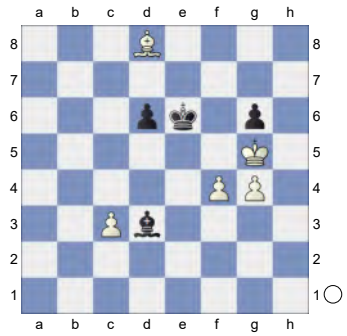
[Better is 58.Kh6± 0.52/29]

58...Bd3 0.54/30

[58...Kf7!= 0.01/27 59.Bf6 Ke6]

59.Bf6 White is slightly better. **59...Be4 60.Bd8 Bd3**

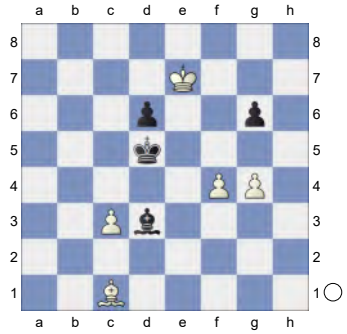
(Diagram)



61.Bb6 Bb1 62.Be3 Kd5 63.Kf6 Ke4 64.Bc1

[Don't play 64.Kxg6 Kxe3+ 65.f5 Kf4=]

64...Kd5! 65.Ke7 Bd3



Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

½-½

82 **C80**

□ **Tuzakli Egitim** **2796**

■ **Greatgodpratik** **2551**

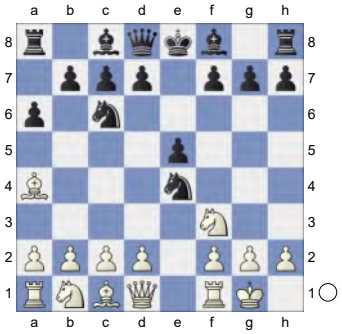
Rapid 13.12.2023

[Kitty Kat]

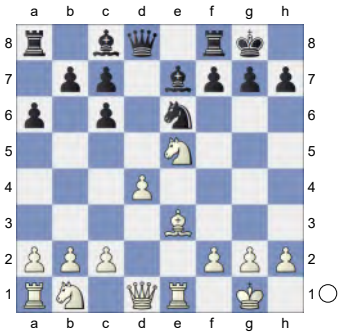
C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



6.Re1 Nc5 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Nxe5 Be7 9.d4 Ne6 10.Be3 0-0

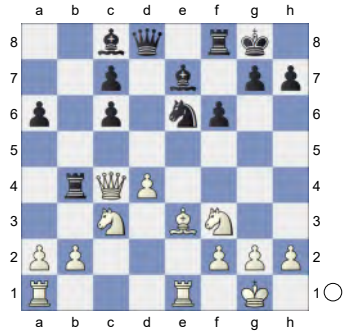


11.c4 f6 12.Nf3 b5N

[12...Ng5 13.Nxg5 fxg5 14.Nc3 h6 *(14...Bf5 15.Qb3 Rb8 16.Rad1 Bg6* Chapter-Rare Th Moves [GM Michael Roiz] *)* 15.d5 Bd7 16.Qb3 Qc8 17.Bd4 Rf7 18.c5 Bf8 19.d6 cxd6 20.cxd6 c5 21.Be5 Qc6 22.Qd5 Rd8 23.Rad1 Qc8 24.Bg3 Bc6 25.Qxc5 Qf5 26.Nd5 Kh8 27.b4 Rustamov,R (1995)-Cieslak,P (2299) Mamaia 2023 1-0 (72)]

[12...Re8 13.Nc3 Nf8 14.Qb3 *(14.d5 Bg4 15.Bf4 Bb4 16.Re7 Rxe7* 0-1 (16) Marochkina,Y (1818)-Girya,O (2398) FIDE Online Arena INT 2024 *)* 14...b6 15.h3 Be6 16.Rad1 Bf7 17.d5 c5 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Rxe8 Bxe8 20.Bxd6 cxd6 21.Re1 b5 22.cxb5 axb5 23.Nxb5 Rb8 24.a4 Bxb5 25.axb5 Qa5 26.Qe3 Qxb5 27.Nd2 Carlsen,M (2859)-Le,Q (2728) San Francisco 2022 playchess.com [TA] 1-0 (54)]

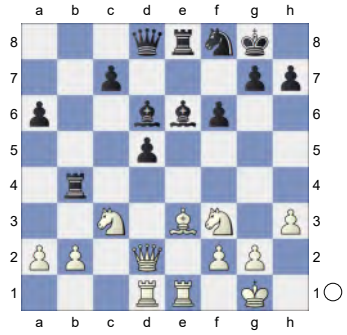
13.Nc3 bxc4 White has an edge. **14.Qa4 Rb8 15.Qxc4 Rb4**



16.Qe2 Bd6 17.Rad1 Re8 18.Qd2 Nf8 19.h3 Prevents Bg4. **19...Be6** 0.67/21

[Black should try 19...Qd7= 0.16/18]

20.d5± cxd5



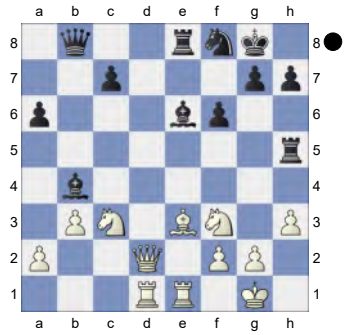
21.Nxd5 0.08/19

[21.Nd4± 0.42/20 is more appropriate.]

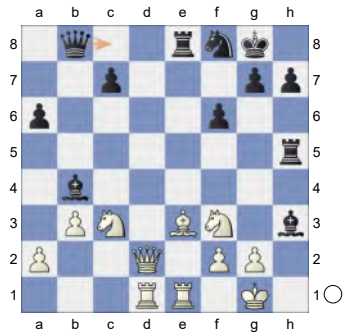
21...Qb8 22.b3 Rb5 23.Nc3 Rh5 24.Ne4 -1.14/20

[24.Qd3= 0.17/18 remains equal.]

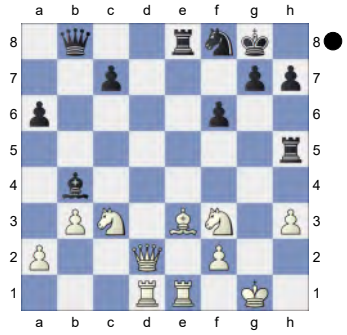
24...Bb4↑ Keeping White busy. A strong pair of Bishops. White is on the road to losing. **25.Nc3**



Bxh3!

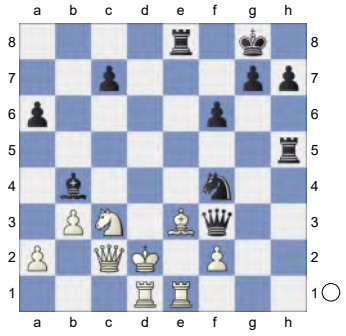


26.gxh3 -1.66/21
[26.Qd3∓ -0.84/17 was necessary. Qc8 27.Qc4+ Kh8 28.Rd5 *(28.Qxb4? Bxg2 29.Nh2 Qh3-+)*]
[26.Bf4 Rxe1+]

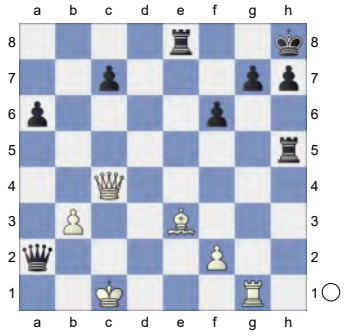


26...Qc8!-+ 27.Kf1? -5.88/18
[27.Ng5 -1.62/20 is a better chance. fxg5 28.Qd5+ Ne6 29.Qf3 Bxc3 30.Qxh5 Bxe1 31.Rxe1]
27...Qxh3+
[27...Bxc3? 28.Qxc3 Qxh3+ 29.Ke2+-]
28.Ke2 Hoping for Rh1! **28...Ne6**
[But not 28...Rf5? 29.Qd4 Qxf3+ 30.Kd3-+]
29.Qc2 Nf4+ Deflection **30.Kd2 Qxf3**

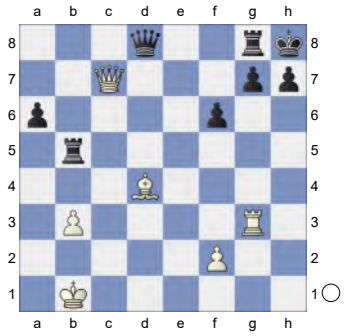
(Diagram)



31.Kc1 Bxc3 32.Qxc3 Ne2+ 33.Rxe2 Qxe2 34.Rg1 Qxa2 35.Qc4+? -6.83/22
[35.Qxf6 -3.88/20 Qa3+ 36.Qb2 Qxb2+ 37.Kxb2]
35...Kh8

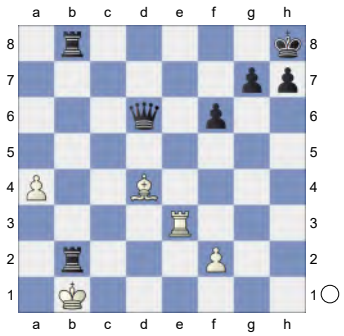


36.Qf7 Rg8 37.Bd4 Qa3+ 38.Kb1 Rb5 39.Rg3 Qf8 -4.21/22
[⌓39...Qd6 -8.46/23 40.Rd3 c5]
40.Qxc7 -6.92/20
[⌓40.Rxg7 -4.21/22 Qxf7 41.Rxf7]
40...Qd8 -3.42/20
[⌓40...Qb4 -6.92/20 41.Qc3 Qd6]

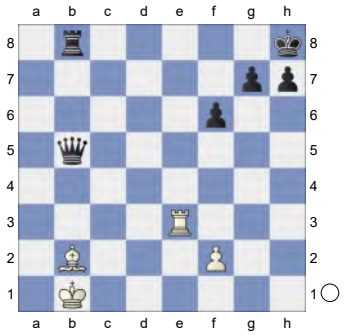


41.Qc3 -7.08/23
[41.Rxg7 -3.42/20 Rxb3+ 42.Kc2 Qxc7+ 43.Rxc7]

41...Qd6 42.Rf3 Rgb8 ...h5 is the strong threat. **43.Qb2 a5 44.Re3 a4 45.bxa4 Rxb2+**



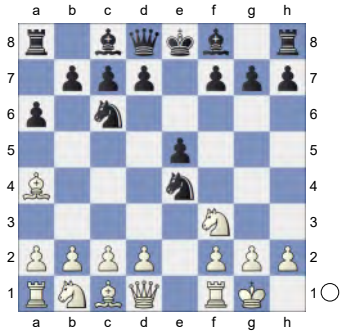
46.Bxb2 Qd1+ -12.29/5
[⌓46...Qd2 -#4/11 47.Re8+ Rxe8 48.f3 Rb8 49.Ka2 Qxb2#]
47.Ka2 Qxa4+ -19.14/5
[⌓47...Qc2 -#4/11 48.Re8+ Rxe8 49.a5 Rb8 50.f4 Qxb2#]
48.Kb1 Qb5



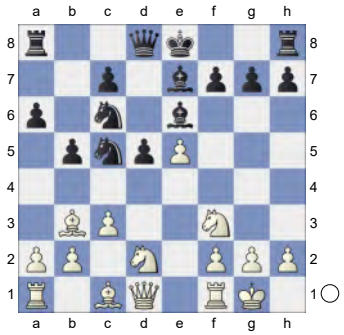
Weighted Error Value: White=0.83/ Black=0.35
0-1

83 **C83**
☐ **Proteussf Lite** **3061**
■ **Openingsbot** **2421**
Rapid 18.11.2023
[Kitty Kat]

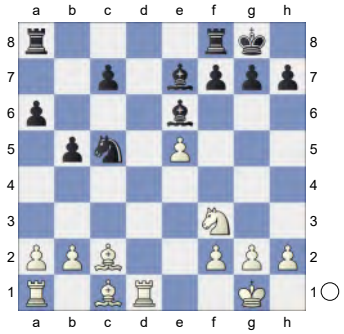
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
Inf 91/(302) **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7



11.Bc2 d4 12.cxd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Nf3 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 0-0

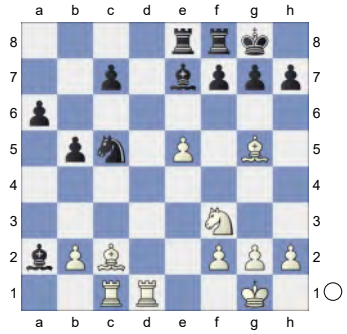


16.Bg5 White is slightly better.
[16.Nd4 Rfd8 17.Be3 Bd5 18.Rac1 Ne6 19.Nf5 Bf8 20.a3 b4 21.axb4 Bxb4 22.Nd4 a5 23.f4 g6 24.f5 Nxd4 25.Bxd4 Bf3 26.gxf3 Rxd4 27.Be4 Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Re8 Vachier Lagrave,M (2785)-Sethuraman,S (2639) Gibraltar 2016 Chess Informant 131 [Tadic,Branko]]
16...Rae8N
[16...Bxg5 17.Nxg5 h6 18.Bh7+ Kh8 19.Nxe6 Nxe6 20.Be4 Rad8 21.g3

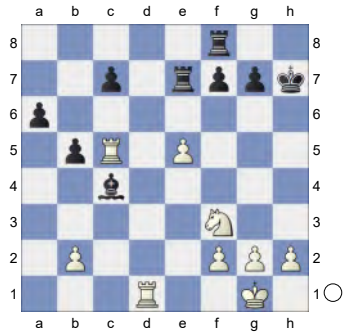
Rfe8 22.Bc6 Re7 23.a4 Nd4 24.axb5 axb5 25.Bxb5 Nf3+ 26.Kg2 Rb8 27.Be2 ½-½ (27) Chapter Side Lines-C41 10.c3 Be7 11.Bc2 16.Bg5 The Open Spanish 2013 [Mikhalevski Viktor]]

17.Rac1 Bxa2 0.85/20

[17...Nd7± 0.52/20]



18.Bxh7+!± Kxh7 19.Bxe7 Remove Defender **19...Rxe7 20.Rxc5 Bc4**

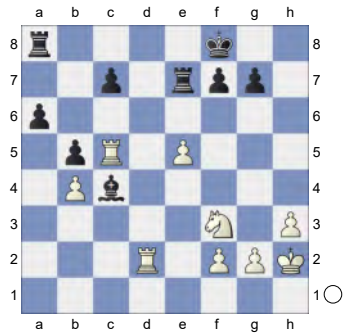


21.h3 Ra8 0.85/20

[21...Be2± 0.50/20 deserves consideration. 22.Ng5+ Kh6]

22.Rd4 Rae8 23.b4 Kg8 24.Rd2 Kf8 25.Kh2 Ra8

(Diagram)



26.Rd4 Rc8 1.05/19

[26...Rae8± 0.69/19]

27.Rh4 Kg8 Against Rh8+ **28.Rd4** -0.01/22 Inhibits Rd8.

[28.Nd2± 0.81/23]

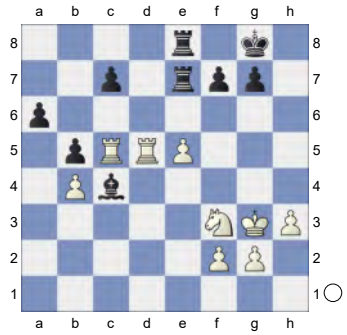
28...Rce8 1.10/22

[28...Kf8!= -0.01/22]

29.Kg3 0.77/23

[⌓29.Rd2! 1.10/22]

29...Be2 30.Rdd5 Bc4



31.Rd2 Ra8 32.h4 0.88/18

[⌓32.Rd4 1.23/20]

32...Kf8 1.35/22

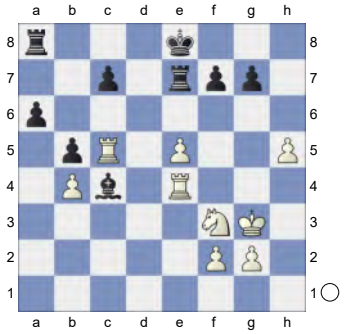
[⌓32...g6 0.88/18]

33.Rd4 Ke8 34.h5 Be2 1.33/18

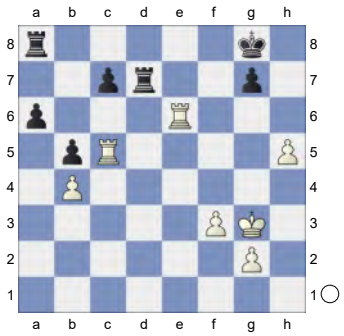
[⌓34...Rd7 0.99/20]

35.Re4 &Bianco is more active. **35...Bc4**

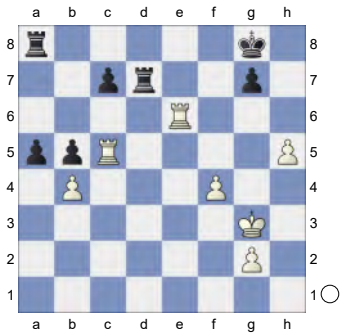
(Diagram)



36.Nd4 And now Rg4 would win.
36...Kf8 37.f3 Rd7 38.e6 fxe6 1.36/21
[38...Bxe6+- 1.72/23 39.Nxe6+ fxe6]
39.Nxe6+ Bxe6 40.Rxe6+- Endgame KRR-KRR **40...Kg8** 2.32/22
[40...Rd6 1.65/21 was worth a try. 41.Rf5+ Kg8]

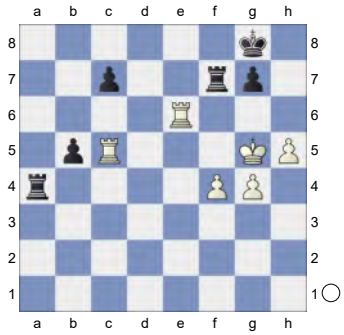


41.f4 a5 2.35/22
[⌓41...Kh7 1.91/21 42.Kh4 Rf7]

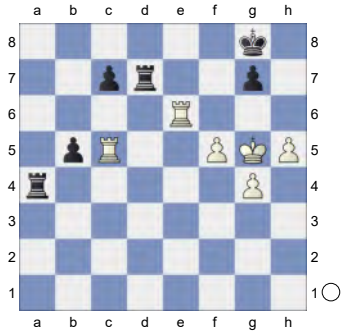


42.bxa5!
[42.Rxb5 a4±]
42...Rxa5 2.57/21
[42...b4 1.99/21 was necessary. 43.Rb5 Ra7]

43.Kh4 Ra2 44.g4
[44.Rxb5 Rxg2 45.Rg5 Rf2=]
44...Ra4 45.Kg5
[45.Rxb5 Rxf4 46.Rb8+ Kf7±]
45...Rf7

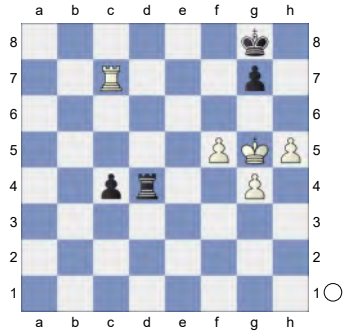


46.f5 Rd7

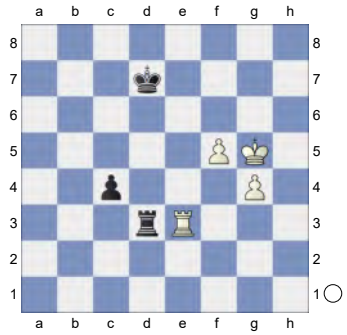


47.Rg6!
[Stronger than 47.Rxb5 Rdd4 48.f6 Rxg4+ 49.Kf5 Raf4+ 50.Ke5 Re4+ 51.Kd5 Rd4+ 52.Kc6 Kf7=]
47...Rc4? 5.85/25
[47...Kf8 2.85/23 48.f6 gxf6+ 49.Rxf6+ Kg8 50.Rg6+ *(50.Rxb5 Rg7+ 51.Rg6 Rxg6+ 52.hxg6 Kg7±)* 50...Kh8 51.Rxb5 Rc4]
48.Rxc4 bxc4 KR-KR **49.Rc6 Rd5 50.Rxc7 Rd4**

(Diagram)



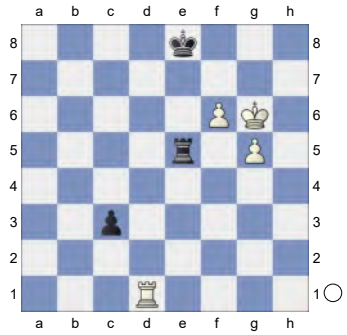
51.Rc6 Kf7 52.h6 gxh6+ 53.Rxh6 Ke8 54.Re6+ Kd7 55.Re3 Rd3



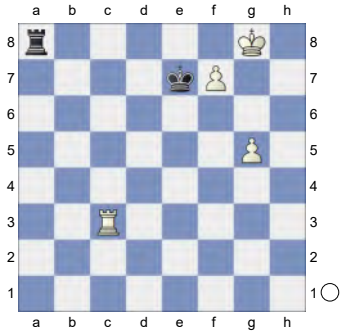
56.Re1

[56.Rxd3+ gets mated. cxd3 57.f6 d2 58.Kf5 d1Q 59.g5 Qe2 60.f7 Ke7 61.g6 Qe3 62.Kg4 Qf2 63.Kg5 Qf3 64.Kh6 Qf6 65.f8R Kxf8 66.Kh5 Qf4 67.g7+ Kf7 68.g8R Kxg8 69.Kg6 Qe5 70.Kh6 Kf7 71.Kh7 Qh5#]

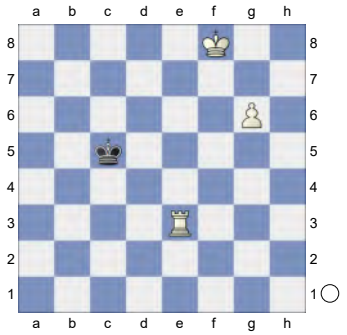
56...Rd6 57.f6 Re6 58.Rd1+ Ke8 59.Kg6 White threatens Kg7 and mate. **59...Re5 60.g5 c3**



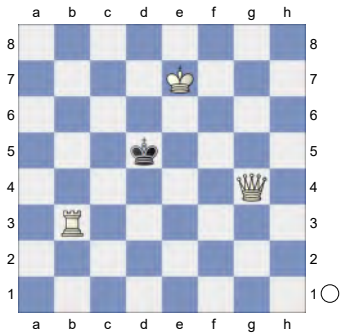
61.Rc1 Ra5 62.Rxc3 Ra8 63.Kg7 White mates. **63...Ra7+ 64.Kg8 Ra8 65.f7+ Ke7+**



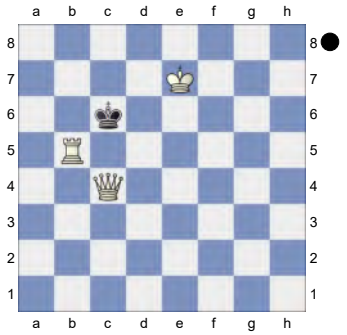
66.Kg7 Rb8 67.g6 Ra8 68.f8Q+ Rxf8 69.Re3+ Kd6 70.Kxf8 KR-K **70...Kc5**



71.g7 Kd4 72.Rb3 Ke5 73.g8Q Kd4 74.Ke7 Kc5 75.Qg4 Kd5



76.Rb5+ Kc6 77.Qc4#

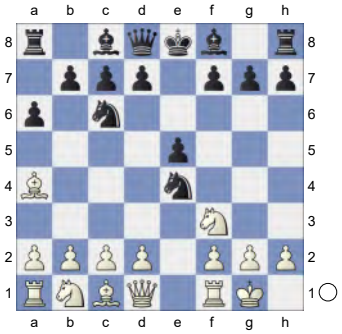


Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very

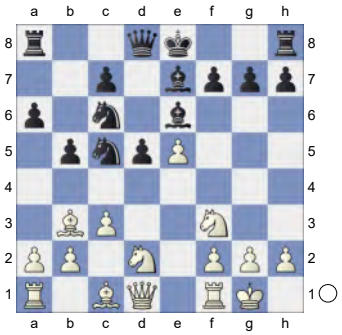
precise) /Black=0.56
1-0

84 **C80**
□ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2751**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2759**
10th Norway Blitz 2022 (8.5) 30.05.2022
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

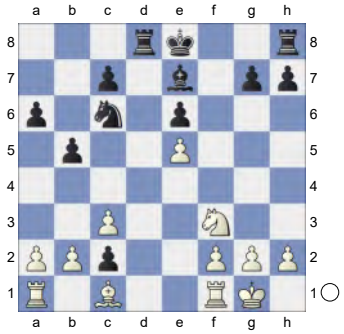


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

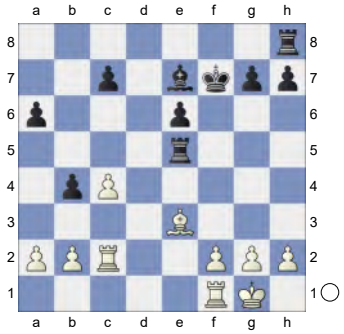


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Nxc5 dxc2 14.Qxd8+ White is slightly better.
14...Rxd8 15.Nxe6 fxe6

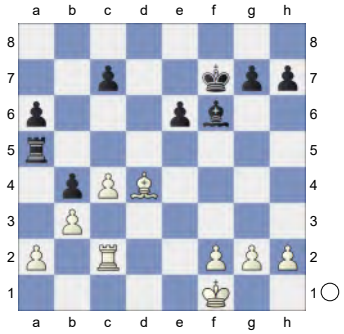
(Diagram)



16.Be3 Prevents Bc5. **16...Rd5 17.Rac1 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Rxe5 19.Rxc2 Kf7 20.c4 b4**

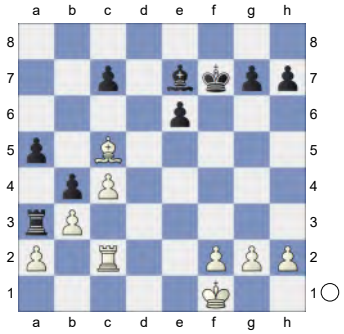


21.Rd1 Rd8 22.Rxd8 Bxd8=
Endgame KRB-KRB **23.Kf1 Bg5 24.Bd4** -0.26/21
[⌓24.Ba7 0.05/21]
24...Ra5 Strongly threatening ...e5.
25.b3 Bf6 0.23/20
[⌓25...e5 -0.14/23 26.Ba7 e4]

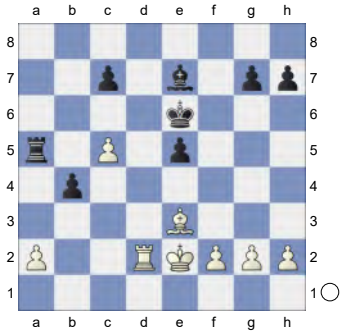


26.Be3 Bg5 27.Ba7 Ra3 28.Bb8
[28.f4!? Be7 29.Be3±]
28...Bd8 29.Ba7 a5 30.Bc5 Be7

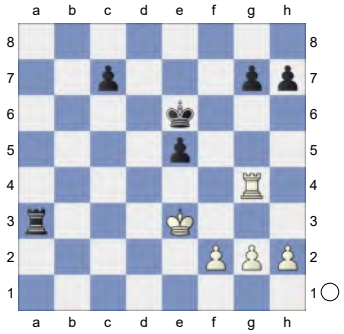
(Diagram)



31.Be3N a4 32.bxa4 Rxa4 33.c5 e5 34.Ke2 -1.14/21
[34.Rc4!∓ -0.46/22]
34...Ke6∓ 35.Rd2 Ra5 -0.71/22
[⌓35...Bf6 -1.20/23 36.Kd3 Kd5]

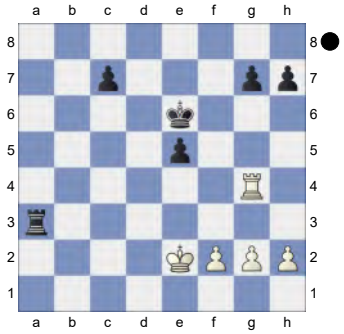


36.Rb2 Bxc5 37.Bxc5 Rxc5 38.Rxb4∓ KR-KR **38...Rc2+ 39.Ke3 Rxa2 40.Rg4** -0.95/23
[40.Rh4= -0.26/22 remains equal.]
40...Ra3+∓

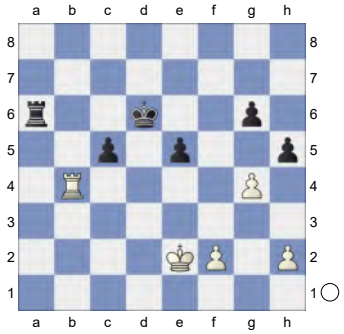


41.Ke2

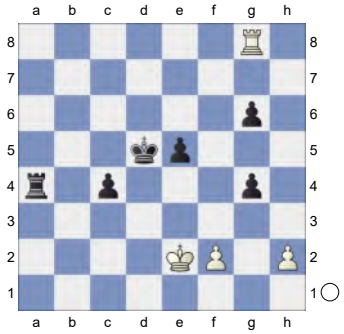
(Diagram)



g6 42.Rc4 Kd6 43.Rh4 h5 44.Rb4 Ra6 45.g4? -3.00/24
[45.Rb8∓ -1.15/22]
45...c5-+

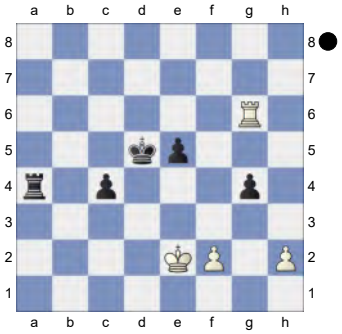


46.Rb3 hxg4 47.Rg3 Ra4 48.Rb3 Kc6 49.Rb8 c4 -1.84/23
[⌓49...Kd5 -3.72/23 50.Rg8 Re4+ 51.Kd2 Rf4]
50.Rg8 Kd5

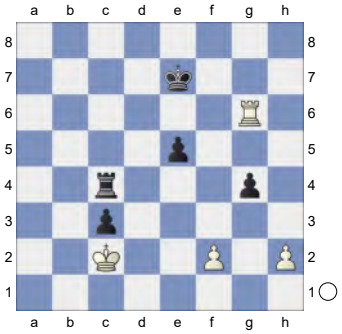


51.Rxg6

(Diagram)

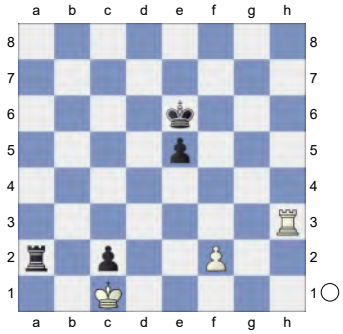


c3! aiming for ...Rd4.
[Weaker is 51...Ra2+ 52.Ke3∓]
52.Kd3 Rc4 53.Kc2 Kc5? -0.18/28
[53...Rf4-+ -2.29/27 54.Kxc3 Ke4]
54.Rg5? -2.42/25
[54.Rg8= -0.18/28]
54...Kd6? -0.18/26
[54...Kb4-+ -2.42/25 55.Rxe5 Rf4]
55.Rg6+ -0.87/25
[55.Rg8= -0.18/26]
55...Ke7 -0.31/26
[55...Kd5∓ -0.87/25]

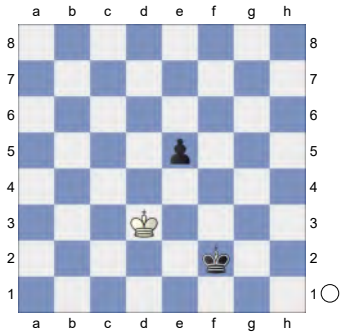


56.h3 gxh3 57.Rh6 Prevents Rh4.
57...Ra4 58.Rxh3 Ra2+ 59.Kd1 -0.74/27
[59.Kd3∓ -0.39/27]
59...c2+ -0.22/28
[But not 59...Rd2+ 60.Ke1=]
[Black should try 59...Rxf2∓ -0.74/27
Threatens to win with ...c2+. 60.Rxc3 Ke6]
60.Kc1= Ke6

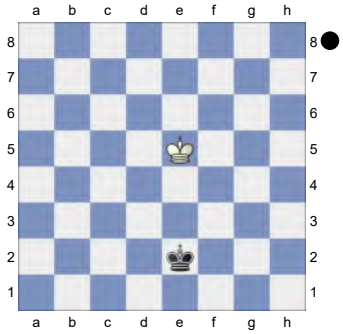
(Diagram)



61.Rc3 Kf5 62.Rxc2 The position is equal. **62...Rxc2+ 63.Kxc2 Kf4 64.Kd2 Kf3 65.Kd3 Kxf2**



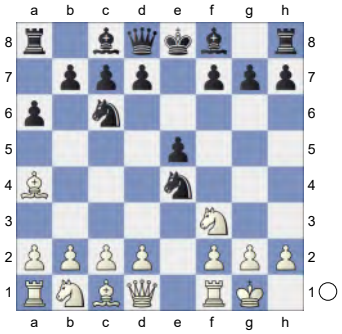
(-> ...Kf3) **66.Ke4 Ke2 67.Kxe5**



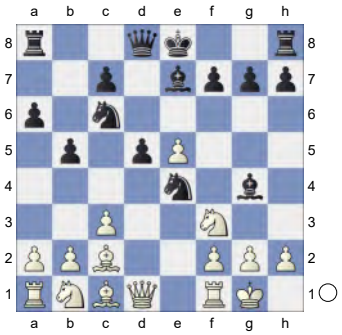
White happily takes the draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.25 (precise) /Black=0.26 (precise)
½-½

85 **C83**
□ **Wang,Hao** **2744**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2759**
10th Norway Chess 2022 (4.5) 03.06.2022
[Kitty Kat]

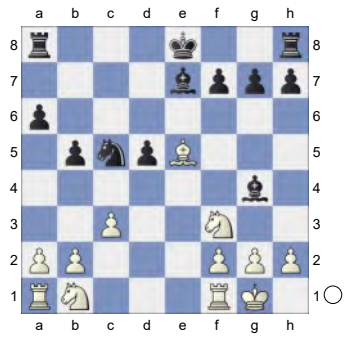
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Bc2 Bg4



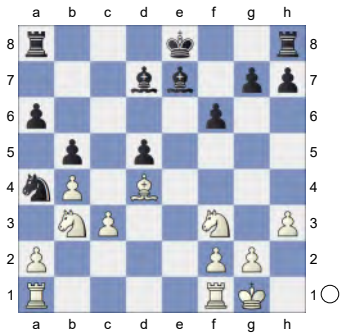
11.Bb3N
[11.Qe1
A) 11...Nc5 12.Nd4 *(12.Nbd2 Ne6 13.Kh1 Bh5 14.Nb3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Bg5 16.Rg1 Bxc1 17.Rxc1 Qh4 18.Qe3 0-0 19.Rce1 Rae8 20.Rg4 Qh5 21.Nd2 g6 22.Nf1 Ng7 23.Rg5 Qh4 24.Qd2 h5 25.Ng3 Nd8 26.Nf5 Nxf5* Pranav,A (2552)-Bakhrillaev,B (2344) Abu Dhabi 2024 1-0 (40)*)* 12...Nxd4 13.cxd4 Ne6 14.Qd2 0-0 15.Nc3 f5 16.Qd3 Kh8 17.Bb3 *(17.f3 Bh5 18.Ne2 g5 19.Be3 c6 20.a4 b4 21.a5 Rf7* Chapter-Games Game 3 *)* 17...c6 18.h3 Bh5 19.f4 g5 20.Kh2 gxf4 21.Bd1 Bxd1 22.Qxd1 Bg5 23.Ne2 Ra7 24.Bxf4 Rg7 25.Qd2 Rfg8 26.Bxg5 Vachier Lagrave,M (2779)-Giri,A (2779) Zagreb 2019 [Joshua Doknjas] ½-½ (46);
B) 11...Bxf3 12.gxf3 Nc5 13.f4 Qd7 14.Qe2 Qe6 15.Be3 f6 16.b4 Na4 17.f5 Qxe5 18.f4 Qd6 19.Qh5+ Kf8 20.Rd1 Nb2 21.Nd2 Nxd1 22.Rxd1 Qd7 23.Bb3 Nd8 24.Nf3 c6 25.Kh1 Bd6 5.d3 ♘e7 6. ♕e2 f6 (2431)-Omuku,E (2511) Hastings 2023 Inf52 [FS; NIC YB16-71] 0-1 (55)]
[11.h3 Bh5 12.g4 Bg6 13.Bb3 d4 14.cxd4 h5 15.d5 hxg4 16.hxg4 Na5 17.Bc2 Bc5 18.Kg2 Qd7 19.e6 Qd6 20.Qe1 Bxf2 0-1 (20) Kazakov,M (2457)-Dumpor,A (2364) Varazdin 2003 CBM 099 [Atlas,Valeri]]
11...Nc5 12.Bxd5 Nxe5 The position is equal. **13.Bf4** -0.57/20
[13.Bxa8= 0.01/19 Qxa8 14.Nbd2]
13...c6 14.Bxe5 Qxd5 15.Qxd5
[Don't go for 15.Bxg7? Qxd1 16.Rxd1 Bxf3!-+]
15...cxd5



16.Nbd2 f6 Strongly threatening ...Bxf3. **17.Bd4 Nd3** Inhibits Rfe1. **18.b4 Nb2**

[18...Kf7 feels hotter. 19.a4 Nf4 20.Rfe1 Rhc8]

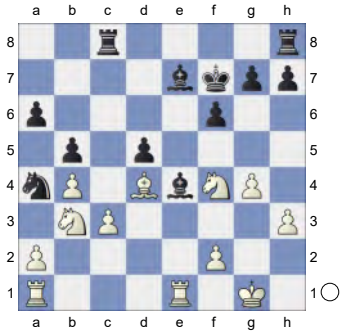
19.h3 Bd7 20.Nb3 Na4



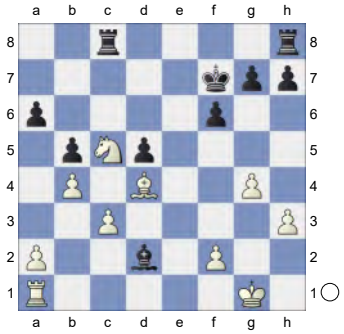
21.Ne1 Bf5 Prevents Nd3. **22.g4 Bg6 23.Ng2! Kf7 24.Rfe1** -0.50/20

[24.Nf4= -0.18/18]

24...Rac8∓ 25.Nf4 Be4

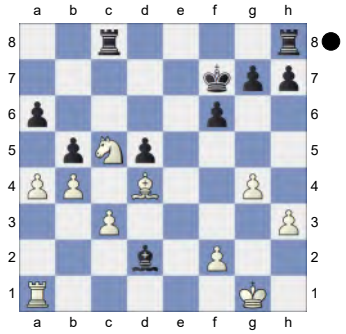


26.Nd2 Bd6 27.Nxe4 Bxf4 28.Nc5 Bd2! 29.Nxa4 Bxe1 30.Nc5 Bd2



31.a4

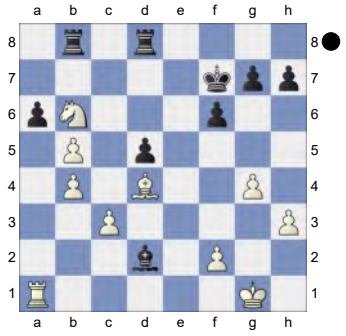
(Diagram)



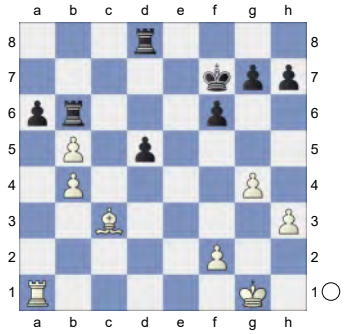
Ra8! 32.Nd7 Rhd8 -0.99/22

[⌓32...Bf4 -1.35/21 33.Kg2 Kg6]

33.Nb6∓ Rab8 34.axb5



Bxc3! 35.Bxc3 Rxb6



36.bxa6 Endgame KRR-KRB **36...Ra8 37.Ra5** -1.85/22 This move loses the game for White.

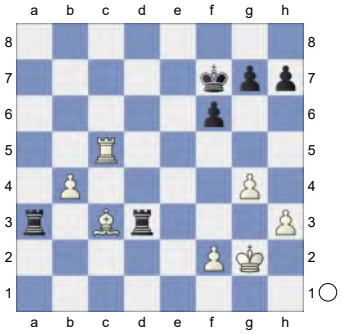
[37.a7∓ -0.64/22]

37...Rbxa6 38.Rxd5 Ra3 39.Rc5 Rd8 40.Kg2 -2.37/23

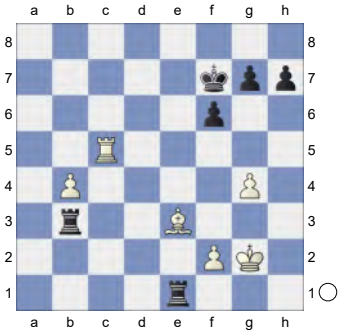
[40.b5 -1.76/22 was worth a try.]

40...Rd3-+

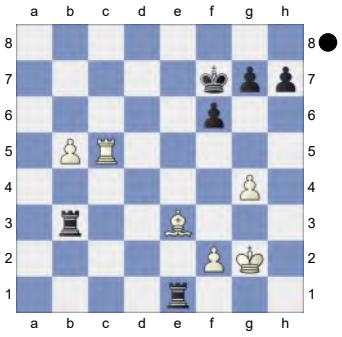
(Diagram)



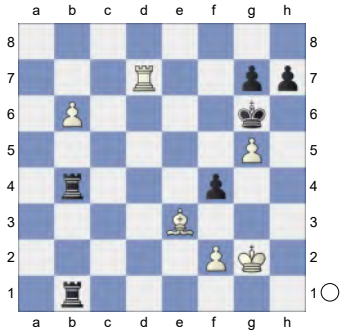
41.Bb2 Rab3
[41...Rxh3 42.Bxa3 Rxa3 43.Rc7+ Kg6 44.Rb7=]
42.Bc1 Rxh3
[Wrong is 42...Rxb4? 43.Be3-+]
43.Be3 Rh4 44.Kg3 Rh1 45.Kg2 Re1



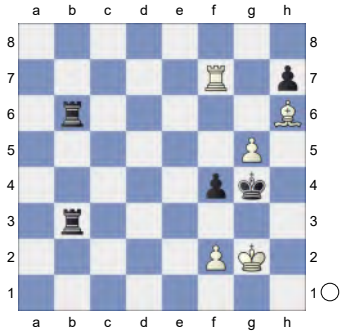
46.b5



Kg6! 47.Rd5 Rb4 48.g5 -2.03/22
[48.Kf3∓ -1.30/24]
48...f5 49.b6 -2.24/26
[49.Rd6+ -1.68/24 was necessary. Kh5 50.b6 *(50.Bd2? Rg4+ 51.Kf3 Rb1-+)*]
49...Reb1 50.Rd7 f4 -1.31/22
[50...Rg4+-+ -1.97/22 51.Kf3 Rb3]



51.Bd4 -2.48/23
[51.Bd2∓ -1.31/22]
51...Kf5 52.Bxg7 Rxb6 53.Bh6 -3.75/24
[⌓53.Bc3 -2.67/20]
53...Kg4 ...R1b2 is the strong threat.
54.Rf7 R1b3

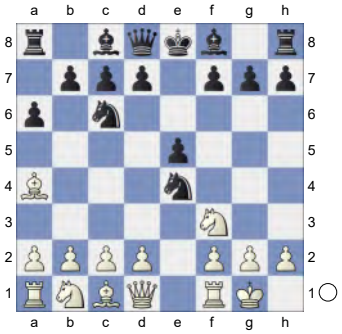


Inhibits f3+.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
0-1

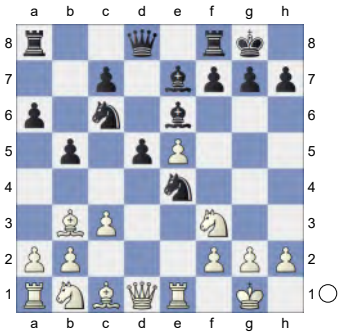
86 **C83**
□ **Grandelius,Nils** **2689**
■ **Huschenbeth,Niclas** **2605**
FIDE Grand Swiss (3) 27.10.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Bb3 d5 9.dxe5 Be6 10.c3 0-0



11.Nbd2 Nc5! 12.Nd4! now scores much better than the old 12.Bc2. punktet besser als das ältere 12.Lc2.

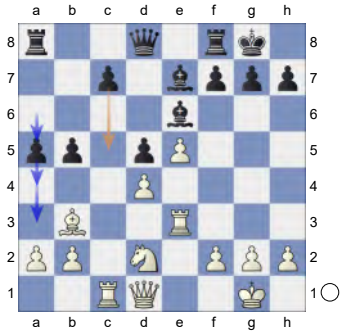
12...Nxd4

[12...Nxb3? 13.Nxc6! Qe8 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Nxb3+-]

13.cxd4 Nd3 14.Re3 Nxc1 15.Rxc1 a5

[15...c5 16.dxc5 Rc8 17.Rec3 b4 18.R3c2 Bf5 19.c6 Bxc2 20.Rxc2 Qa5 21.Nf3 Rfd8 22.Nd4 g6 23.e6 Bf6 24.exf7+ Kxf7 25.h4 Qb6 26.Rd2 Rd6 27.Nf5 Rdxc6 28.Bxd5+ Kf8 29.Bxc6 Rxc6 30.Ne3 Vit Spelar Sgf3 (2739)-Molina,R (2714) 1st h.m. J. Fritz MT/100 2007 CBM 044 [Michalczak] 1-0 (34)]

(Diagram)

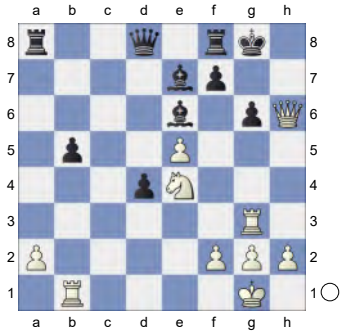


16.Rec3

[16.f4 c5 17.Bc2 cxd4 18.Rg3 f5 19.exf6 Rxf6 20.Qh5 h6 21.Re1 Bf7 22.Qg4 Bf8 23.Nf3 Qc8 24.Qh4 Re6 25.Bh7+ Kh8 26.Rd1 Kxh7 27.Ng5+ Kg8 28.Nxe6 Qxe6 29.f5 Qxf5 30.Qxh6 Re8 Amulya,G (1718)-Gyana Sai Santhosh,M (2089) Doha 2024 0-1 (43)]

16...g6N

[Vorgänger: 16...a4 17.Bc2 a3 18.bxa3 Bxa3 19.Rb1 c5 20.dxc5 d4 0.74/20 *(20...Qa5!=* 0.23/19 *21.Rd3 Qc7)* 21.Rg3± Bxc5? 7.20/19 *(21...d3±* 0.96/18 *22.Rxd3 Qb8)* 22.Bxh7+!+- Kxh7 23.Qh5+! Kg8 White must now prevent ...Ra3. 24.Qh6 g6 25.Ne4! Intending Nf6+ and mate. Be7



Against Nf6+ 26.Rf3! Bf5 27.Rxf5! Ra6 Inhibits Nf6+. 28.Rf3 1-0 Gurel,E (2500)-Ivic,V (2590) FIDE World Cup 2023 (1.1)]

[16...Rc8 17.Nf3 a4 18.Bc2 g6 19.Bd3 b4 20.Rc6 Bd7 21.Qxa4

Ra8 22.Qb3 Bxc6 23.Rxc6 Ra5 24.h3 Qd7 25.Qc2 Rxa2 26.Rxc7 Qe6 Chapter11 Re1-C1 11.Nbd2 Nc5 The Open Spanish [Mikhalevski Viktor]]

17.Nf3

[But not 17.Rxc7? a4 18.Rxe7 Qxe7-+]

17...a4 18.Bc2 a3

[18...b4!? 19.Re3 Qd7=]

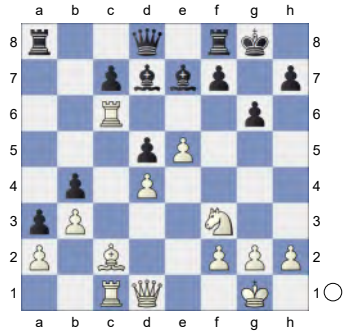
19.b3 -0.47/22

[19.bxa3= 0.01/21 Bxa3 20.Rb1]

19...b4 -0.06/22

[19...c5∓ -0.47/22]

20.Rc6= Bd7



21.Bd3 Bxc6 22.Rxc6 Kg7 23.g3 Rb8 24.Qc2 Rb7

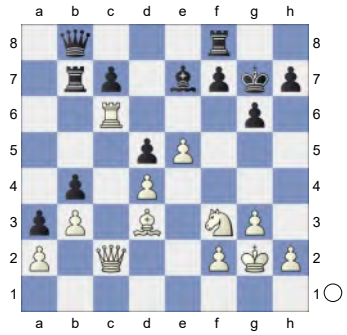
[24...Qd7!?]

25.Kg2 -0.46/17

[25.Ne1= 0.08/20]

25...Qb8 0.46/21

[25...Rg8!∓ -0.46/17]

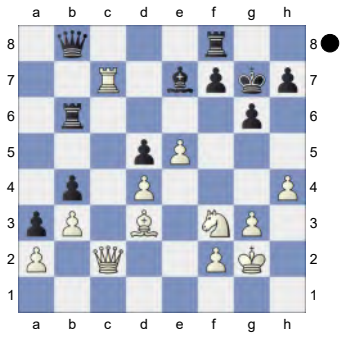


26.h4 -0.01/21

[26.Qc1± 0.46/21 deserves consideration.]

26...Rb6! Threatens to win with ...Rxc6.

27.Rxc7



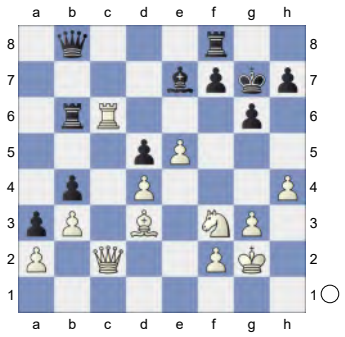
Rb7 -0.01/21

[27...Re6!∓ -1.11/19]

28.Rc6 Rb6 0.01/23

[28...Re8!∓ -0.35/18 feels stronger.]

29.Rc7 Rb7 30.Rc6 Rb6!



Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.26 (precise)

½-½

87 **C82**

□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2734**

■ **Erdos,Viktor** **2557**

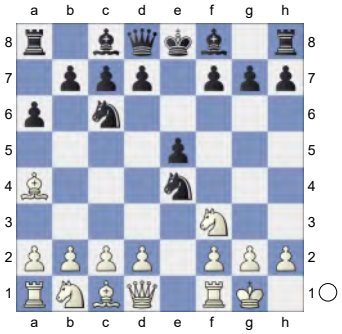
TCh-AUT 2023-24 (7.2) 20.03.2024

[Kitty Kat]

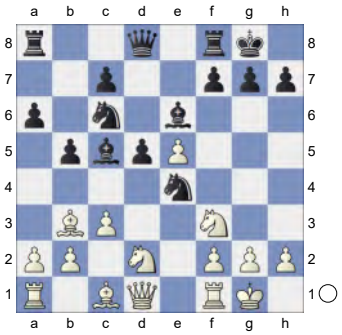
C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

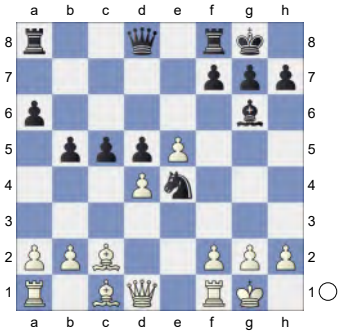
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0



11.Bc2 Bf5 12.Nb3 Bg6 13.Nfd4 Bxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 c5!



16.Bxe4N 0.08/21 New and interesting. Theoretisch interessant.

[Vorgänger: 16.f3 0.10/20 16.Be3 0.54 cxd4 17.Qxd4 Rc8 And now ... Rc4 would win. White must now prevent ...Rc4. 18.Bb3 Against Rc4 Prevents Rc4. Nc5 19.Be3 Bd3 20.Rfd1 Nxb3 21.axb3 Bc2 22.Rdc1 Bxb3 23.Rxa6 Rxc1+ 24.Bxc1 ½-½ Dominguez Perez,L (2760)-Caruana,F (2800) USA-ch Saint Louis 2021 (2) Qc8 25.Ra1 Qc4 26.Be3 Bc2 27.e6 f6 28.Qa7 Bg6 29.Rc1 Qe2 30.h3 d4 31.Qxd4 Re8 32.Rc6 Qd3 33.Qa7 Kh8 34.Kh1 Bh5 35.Qc5 Bg6 36.Rc8 h6 37.Rxe8+ Bxe8 38.Bxh6 Kh7 39.Be3 Dominguez Perez,L (2719)-Polgar,J (2699) Khanty Mansiysk RUS 2011 [Milos Pavlovic] 1-0 (108) Qb1+ 40.Bc1 Qa2 41.Qe3 Qd5 42.Bd2 Kg6 43.Bc3 Bc6 44.Bd4 Kh7 45.Kg1 Qc4 46.Kh2 Qd5 47.Kg1 Qc4 48.h4 Bd5 49.e7 Bc6 50.h5 Be8 51.h6 Qc6 52.hxg7 Kxg7 53.b4 Qd5 54.Kf2 Dominguez Perez,L (2760)-Caruana,F (2800) Saint Louis USA 2021 [Mikhalevski,V] ½-½ (108) Kf7 55.Bc5 Kg6 56.Qf4 Qa2+ 57.Kg3 Qe6 58.Qd2 Qe5+ 59.Kf2 Kg7 60.Bd6 Qe6 61.Qf4 Kg6 62.g4 Qa2+ 63.Kg3 Qe2 64.Qc1 Kf7 65.Qh1 Kg7 66.Qc1 Kf7 67.Qc3 Qd1 68.Bc5 Qe2 69.Qb3+ Krumpacnik,D (2760)-Das,A (2800) Hrvatska 82/316 2021 200 Traps In The Opening [List,Paul M] ½-½ (108)]

[16.f4± 0.50/19 Qc8 17.g4]

16...Bxe4= The position is equal.

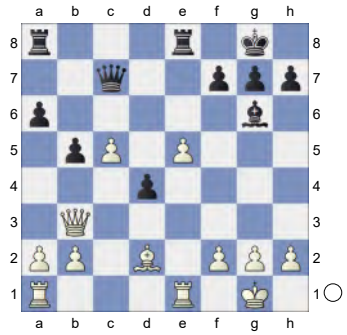
17.dxc5 d4 Against Be3 **18.Qb3** 0.02/19

[18.Re1± 0.43/19 is more appropriate. Qd5 19.Qg4]

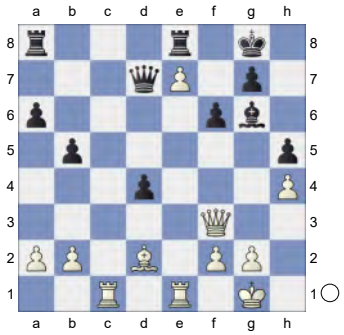
18...Qc7= 19.Re1 Bg6 0.62/20

[Black should try 19...Qc6= 0.04/17]

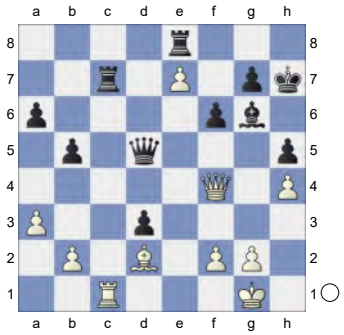
20.Bd2!± Rfe8!



21.e6 0.29/21
[21.Rac1± 0.60/20 feels stronger.]
21...Qxc5= 22.Rac1 Qf5 23.e7 Qd7 Prevents Rc7. **24.Qf3 f6 25.h4** Black must now prevent h5. **25...h5**

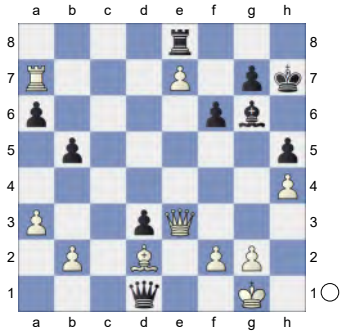


26.Qg3 0.01/20
[26.Ba5± 0.55/19]
[26.Rc5± 0.41/19]
26...Kh7 27.Rc7 Qd5 28.Qf4 d3 29.a3↑ White has the initiative. White has some pressure. **29...Rac8 30.Rec1 Rxc7**

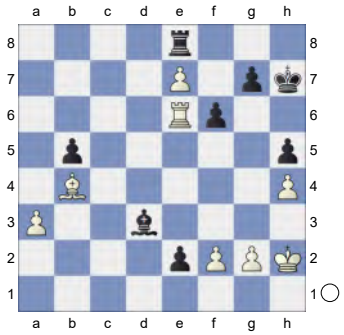


31.Rxc7 Qe6 32.Qe3 Qg4 33.Ra7 Qd1+ 34.Kh2 Qe2? 1.96/22
[34...Qg4= -0.01/21 and Black is okay.]
35.Kg1? -0.01/20
[35.Qxe2+- 1.96/22 dxe2 36.f3 *(36.Kg3)*]
35...Qd1+

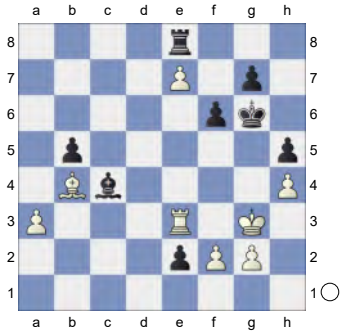
(Diagram)



36.Kh2 -0.01/20
[36.Qe1± 0.83/21 Qg4 37.f3 *(37.Rxa6? Rxe7 38.Qxe7 Be4-+)* 37...Qd4+ 38.Qe3 Qxb2 39.Rxa6]
36...Qe2 37.Bb4 Qxb2 38.Rxa6 Threatening Rd6. **38...Qe2?** 1.25/22
[38...Qc2!= 0.27/22]
39.Qxe2!± &Bianco is more active.
39...dxe2 Endgame KRB-KRB **40.Re6 Bd3**

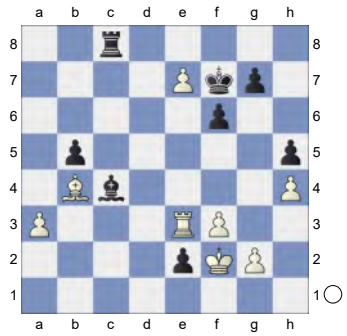


41.Kg3 Kg6 42.Re3 Bc4

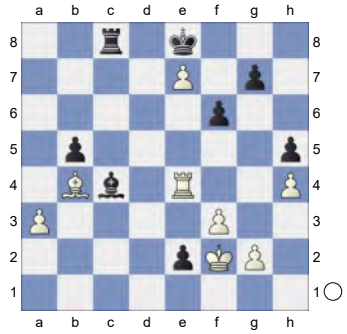


43.f3! Kf7 44.Kf2 Rc8 2.10/27
[44...f5± 1.34/24]

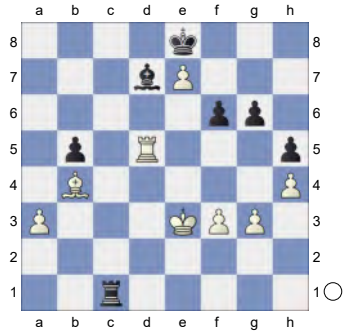
(Diagram)



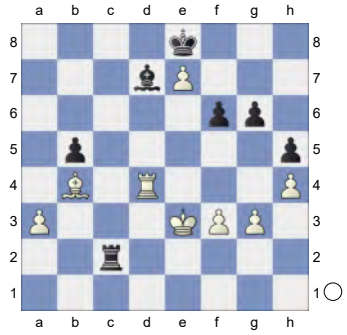
45.Re4!+- Ke8



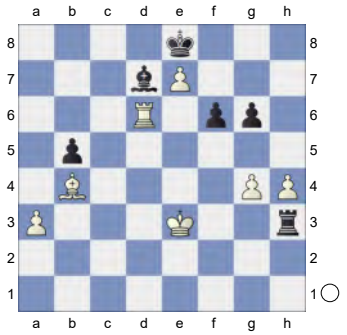
46.Rd4 Be6 47.Kxe2 Bd7
[Weaker is Not 47...Rc2+ 48.Ke3 Rc8 49.g4±]
48.Rd5 g6 49.Ke3 Rc4 50.g3 Rc1



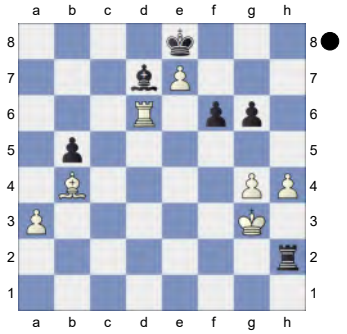
51.Rd6 Rc6 52.Rd4 Rc2



53.g4! hxg4 54.fxg4 Rh2? 8.20/22
[54...Rb2 2.19/21 55.Rd6 Kxe7 56.Rd2+ Rxb4 57.axb4 Bxg4]
[54...Rc1 2.40/24 55.Rd5 Rc8]
55.Rd6 White is clearly winning.
55...Rh3+



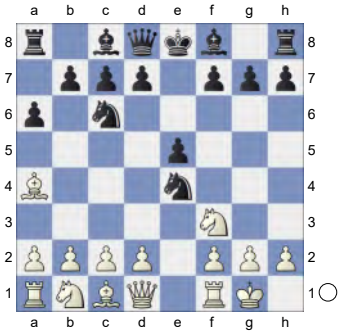
56.Kf2 Rh2+ 57.Kg3



Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.25 (precise)
Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.25 (precise)
1-0

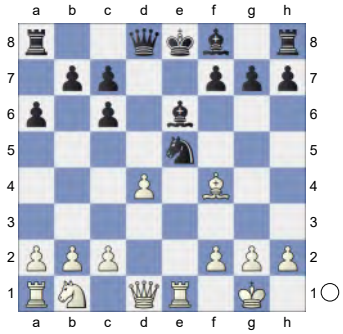
88 **C80**
□ **Bernetta92** **2712**
■ **Nechto37** **2530**
Blitz 29.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
East Central Times, 7 Dec 1889, from the Baltimore News **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

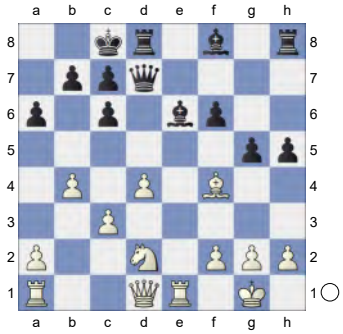


6.Re1 Nc5 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Nxe5 Be6
[8...Be7 9.d4 Ne6 10.Be3 0-0 11.c4 f6 12.Nf3 Re8 13.Nc3 Nf8 14.Qb3 *(14.d5 Bg4 15.Bf4 Bb4 16.Re7 Rxe7* 0-1 (16) Marochkina,Y (1818)-Girya,O (2398) FIDE Online Arena INT 2024*)* 14...b6 15.h3 Be6 16.Rad1 Bf7 17.d5 c5 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Rxe8 Bxe8 20.Bxd6 cxd6 21.Re1 b5 22.cxb5 axb5 23.Nxb5 Molina,R (2859)-Persse,D (2728) Semey 2022 Sicilian Sveshnikov MBM [Leykekhman,D] 1-0 (54)]
9.d4N
[9.Qh5 Qf6 *(9...g6 10.Qf3 Qe7 11.Nc3 Bg7 12.d4 Nd7 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Bg5 0-0 15.Rad1 Bg4 16.Qd3 Bxd1 17.Qxd1 Bxd4 18.Ne2 Rfe8 19.Be3 Rxe3 20.fxe3 Bxe3+ 21.Kf1 Qf5+ 22.Nf4 Qxf4+ 23.Qf3 Qxf3+ 24.gxf3* Gheorghe,I (1200)-Brieler,J (1281) FICGS 2008 0-1 (35)*)* 10.d4 g6 11.Qe2 Na4 12.Nd2 h6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Qc4 Nb6 15.Qxc6+ Kd8 16.d5 Bd6 17.dxe6 Re8 18.Qf3 Rxe6 19.Qxf6+ 1-0 (19) Jablonski,Z-Morau,R BdF-Schachserver 1889 ZUS D57 [Nielsen,Peter Heie]]
9...Nd7 10.Bf4 -0.27/18
[⌓10.Nf3 0.11/17]
10...Nxe5!=

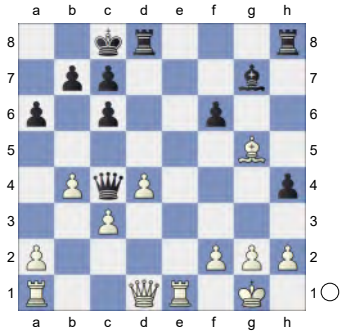
(Diagram)



Black has an edge. **11.Bxe5 Qd7 12.Nd2 0-0-0 13.c3 h5 14.b4** -0.92/20
[14.h4= -0.28/16 keeps the balance.]
14...f6!∓ 15.Bf4 g5



16.Be3 h4 17.Ne4 Bg7 -0.07/21
[17...Be7∓ -0.97/18]
18.Nc5= Qd5 19.Nxe6 Qxe6 20.Bxg5! Qc4 1.13/21
[20...Qf5= 0.22/18 remains equal. 21.Bd2 h3]

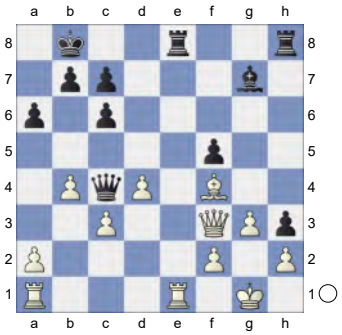


21.Bd2 0.76/20
[⌓21.Bf4 1.13/21 Bf8 22.Re3]
21...h3 22.Qg4+ 0.39/22
[22.Qe2± 0.84/20 Qxe2 23.Rxe2]
22...Kb8± 23.g3

[23.Qxg7 Rhg8 24.Qg3 *(24.Qxf6 Rxg2+ 25.Kh1 Qd5∓)* 24...Rxg3 25.fxg3 Qd3∓]
[23.gxh3? Rdg8 24.Kh1 Bh6-+]
[23.Qe6!? Qxe6 24.Rxe6±]

23...f5 0.86/22 **24.Qf3** 0.36/22
[Not 24.Qxg7 Qd5 25.Kf1 *(25.f3* leads to mate. *Qxf3)* 25...Rde8∓]
[24.Qxf5± 0.86/22 aiming for Re7. Rdf8 25.Qe4]

24...Rdf8 25.Bf4 Re8



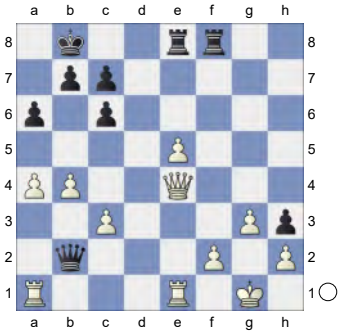
Inhibits Re7. **26.a4 Qb3** 1.26/23
[26...Rxe1+± 0.57/20 27.Rxe1 Bf6]

27.Be5 0.69/20
[27.Reb1± 1.26/23 Qd5 28.Qxd5 cxd5 29.Re1]

27...Bxe5 28.dxe5 f4 1.12/19
[28...Rhf8± 0.67/20]

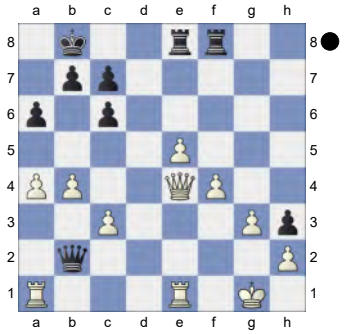
29.Qxf4± Rhf8 30.Qe4 0.70/20
[30.Qd2± 1.51/21]

30...Qb2!±



31.f4 -0.01/19
[31.Qe2!± 0.83/22 Qxc3 32.f4]

(Diagram)

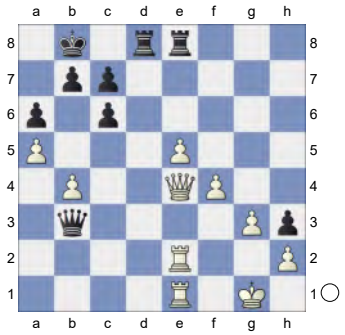


31...Qxc3 3.04/19
[31...Rxe5!= -0.01/19 32.Qf3 *(32.fxe5 Rf2=)* 32...Rd5]

32.Rac1+- Qb2 33.Rc2 Qb3 34.a5 Rd8? 4.74/21
[34...Qe6 2.23/21 35.Rf2 Rf5]

35.Rce2 2.66/20
[⌓35.e6 4.74/21]

35...Rfe8 4.81/20
[35...Qe6 2.66/20 was necessary. 36.Rf2 Rf5]



36.e6 Rd6? 5.54/21
[36...c5 3.10/18 was worth a try. 37.bxc5 Rd1]

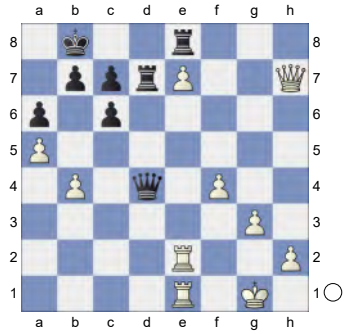
37.e7 2.75/19
[⌓37.f5 5.54/21]

37...Rd7? 7.93/22
[37...Qf7 2.75/19 38.Qe5 Ka8]

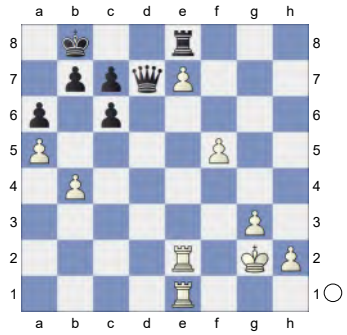
38.Qe6 Qd3 39.Qxh3? 2.26/19
[39.Qf7 5.69/22 Qd4+ 40.Kf1]

39...Qd6? 7.19/20
[39...Qd4+ 2.26/19 40.Kh1 Qd5+ 41.Qg2 Qf7]

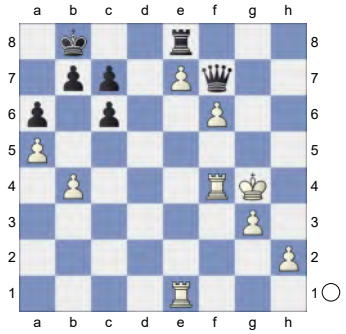
40.Qh7 Qd4+



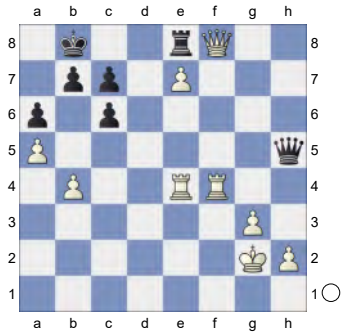
41.Kg2 Qd5+ 42.Qe4 Hoping for Qxd5.
42...Qd6 6.62/21
[42...Rexe7 3.37/22 43.Qxd5 Rxe2+ 44.Rxe2 cxd5]
43.f5? 2.11/21
[43.Qf5 6.62/21 c5 44.Qxc5]
43...Qf6? 13.01/19
[43...Rdxe7 2.11/21 44.Qxe7 Rxe7 45.Rxe7 Qd5+ 46.R7e4 Qxf5]
44.Qe6 Qd4 45.Qxd7? 1.32/18 **Qxd7±**



46.f6 Qd5+ 47.Re4 White has strong compensation. **47...Qf7** 1.86/20
[47...b6± 1.36/19 keeps fighting.]
48.Rf4+- Qa2+ 2.33/21
[48...b6± 1.55/19]
49.Kh3 Black must now prevent f7.
49...Qd5 14.37/24
[49...Qf7± 1.41/20]
50.Kg4? -0.01/18
[Better is 50.f7+- 14.37/24 Rh8+ 51.Rh4 Qf5+ 52.Kg2]
50...Qf7 1.91/19
[50...Rg8+= -0.01/18 51.Kh3 Rh8+ 52.Rh4 Re8]

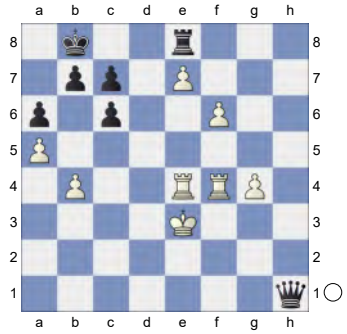


51.Ree4 1.42/17
[51.h4+- 1.91/19]
51...Qg8+ 2.64/20
[51...b6± 1.42/17]
52.Kf3 Threatening mate with f7.
52...Qh7 15.10/18
[52...Qb3+ 2.66/18 53.Kf2 Qa2+ 54.Re2 Qf7]
53.g4? 0.01/19
[53.f7+- 15.10/18 Qh5+ 54.Kg2 Kc8 55.f8Q Kb8

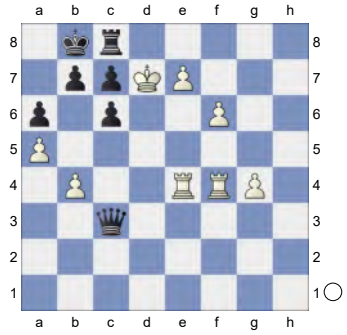


56.Qxe8+!! Qxe8 57.Rf8 b6 58.Rxe8+ Kb7 59.Rf8 c5 60.e8Q bxa5 61.bxc5 c6 62.Rf7#]
53...Qh3+=
[53...Qxh2? 54.f7 Qh3+ 55.Ke2 Qh2+ 56.Kd3 Qh3+ 57.Kc4+-]
54.Kf2 Qxh2+ 55.Ke3 Qh1? 16.01/21
[55...Qh3+= 0.01/21 56.Kd2 Qh2+ 57.Kd3 Qh3+ 58.Kd2 Qh2+ 59.Kd3 Qh3+ 60.Kd2]

(Diagram)



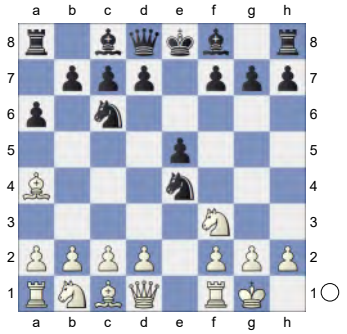
56.Kd4? -0.01/19
[White has to play 56.f7+- 16.01/21 Qe1+ 57.Kf3 Qf1+ 58.Kg3 Qd3+ 59.Rf3 Qd6+ 60.Kg2 Qd2+ 61.Rf2]
56...Qd1+ 57.Ke5? -#1/6
[57.Ke3= 0.01/19 Qb3+ 58.Ke2]
57...Qc1?? 12.39/24
[57...Qd5# -#1/6 and all is fine.]
58.Ke6 Qc3 59.Kd7 Rc8



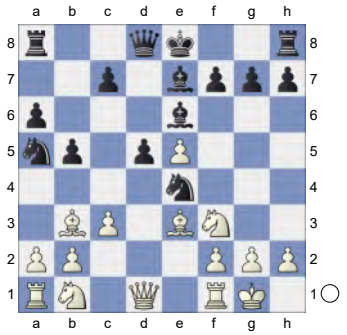
Weighted Error Value: White=1.14/ Black=0.60. Loss on time!?
0-1

89 **C80**
□ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2756**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2776**
FIDE Grand Prix 3 Pool B (5.1) 27.03.22
[Kitty Kat]

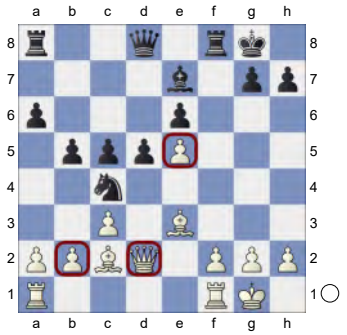
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Na5



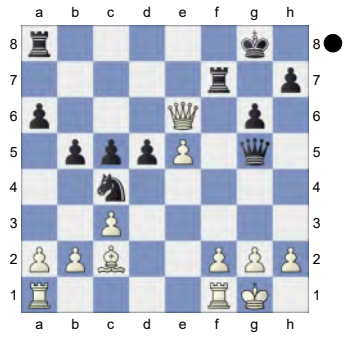
11.Nd4 0-0 12.Nd2 Nxd2 13.Qxd2 c5 0.61/18
[13...Bc8= 0.13/19]
14.Nxe6± &Bianco is more active.
14...fxe6 15.Bc2! Nc4



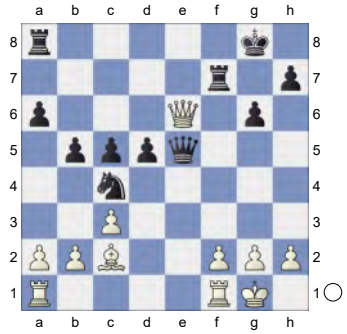
White is slightly better. **16.Qd3 g6 17.Bh6 Rf7 18.Qh3N** 0.29/20
[18.b3± 0.60/19 Na3 19.Bd1]
[18.Qg3 Bf8 19.Bg5 Qc7 20.b3 Nxe5 21.Rae1 Bg7 22.f4 Nd7 23.Rxe6 Raf8 24.Qd3 d4 25.Rfe1 c4 26.Qd2 d3 27.Bd1 Qc5+ 28.R6e3 h6 29.b4 Qb6 30.Bh4 Rxf4 31.Bg3 Bxc3 0-1 (31) Becker,A-

Bogoljubow,E Karlsruhe 1938 HCL [ChessBase II]]

18...Bg5 19.Bxg5 Qxg5 20.Qxe6



aiming for b3. **20...Qxe5**



21.Qc6 Raf8 Strongly threatening ... Nd2. **22.Qxc5 Nxb2** 0.98/22

[22...Nd2= 0.07/23 23.Rfe1 Qg5]

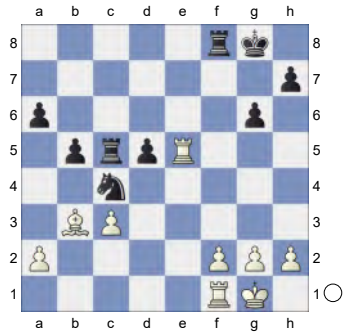
23.Bb3 0.24/19

[23.Rae1± 0.98/22 Qg5 24.Re2]

23...Nc4= 24.Rae1 Rc7 25.Rxe5

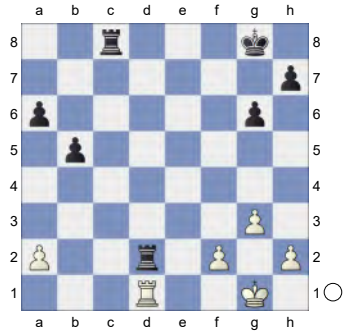
[25.Qb4 looks sharper. Qf6 26.Rd1 Rb8 27.Bc2]

25...Rxc5



26.Bxc4 Rxc4 27.Rxd5 Rxc3 Endgame KRR-KRR **28.Rd2 Rfc8 29.g3 Rc2 30.Rfd1 Rxd2** -0.07/21

[30...b4∓ -0.56/24 feels stronger.]



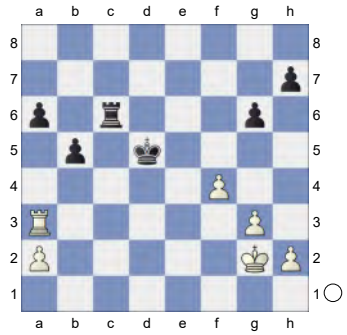
31.Rxd2∓ KR-KR **31...Rc4 32.Rd3** -0.35/23

[32.h4= -0.01/23 deserves consideration.]

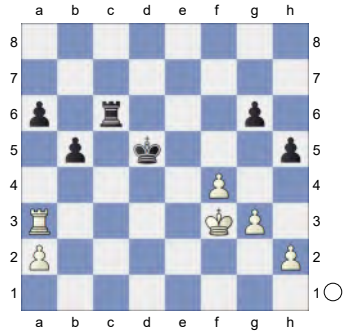
32...Kf7 0.01/20

[32...Ra4∓ -0.35/23]

33.Kg2 The position is equal. **33...Ke6 34.Ra3 Rc6 35.f4 Kd5**



36.Kf3 h5

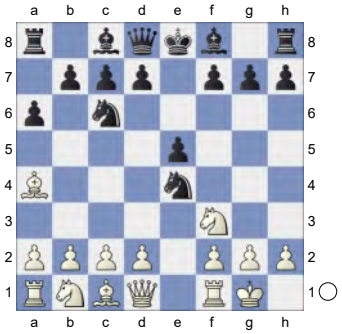


Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)

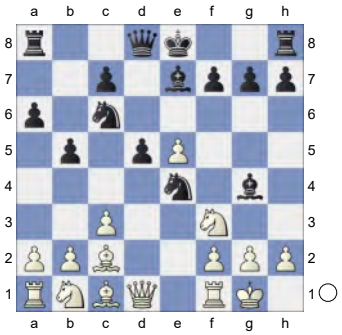
½-½

90 **C83**
□ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2756**
■ **Santos Latasa,J** **2675**
35th Leon GM 2022 rapid (1.4) 08.07.2022
[Kitty Kat]

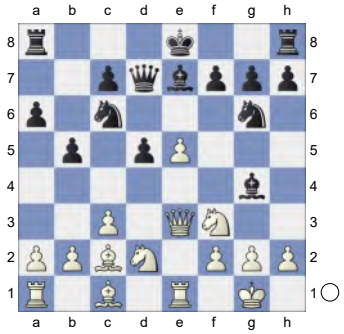
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



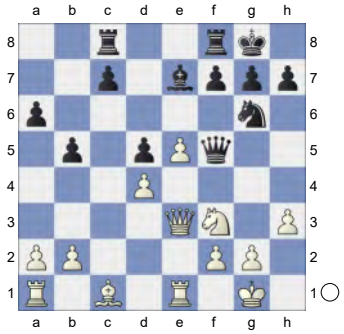
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Bc2 Bg4



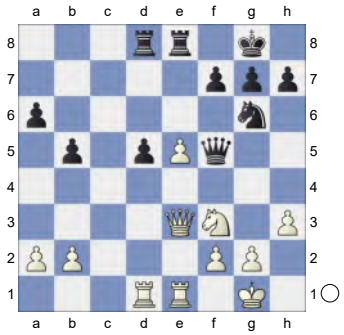
11.Qe1 Nc5 12.Nbd2 Ne6 13.Qe2
[13.Kh1 Bh5 14.Nb3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Bg5 16.Rg1 Bxc1 17.Nxc1 Qh4 18.Rg4 Qh5 19.Nd3 0-0 20.Qe2 f5 21.exf6 Rxf6 22.f4 Rh6 23.f3 Rf8 24.Qf2 Rff6 25.Re1 Qf7 26.Qg3 Rh5 27.a4 Rfh6 Firouzja,A (2760)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2747) Toronto, Canada 2024 [Harry Grieve] ½-½ (39)]
13...Qd7 14.Re1 Nf4N White has an edge. **15.Qe3 Ng6**
(Diagram)



16.h3 Bf5 17.Bxf5 Qxf5 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 0-0 20.Nf3 0.06/20
[20.Nb3!± 0.40/20]
20...Rac8=

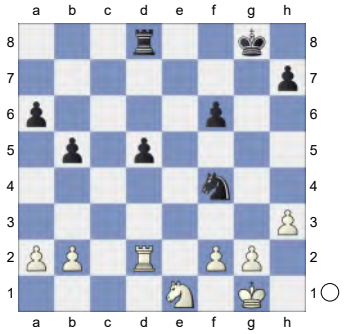


21.Qb3 c5 22.dxc5 Bxc5 23.Be3 Bxe3 24.Qxe3 Rfe8 0.38/20
[24...Rc4= -0.14/21]
25.Rad1± Rcd8

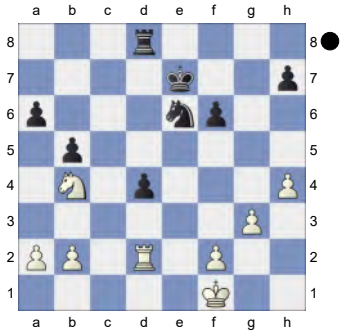


26.Qd3 0.09/19
[26.b4± 0.43/17 is superior.]
26...Qxd3= 27.Rxd3 Nf4 28.Rd2 f6 29.exf6 Threatens to win with Rxe8+.
29...Rxe1+ 30.Nxe1 gxf6±

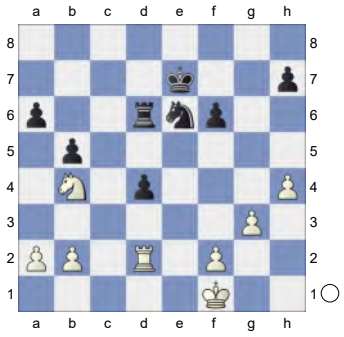
(Diagram)



Endgame KRN-KRN **31.Kf1 Kf7 32.h4 Ke7** 0.58/23
[32...a5= -0.01/21]
33.g3 0.14/22
[33.Nc2!± 0.58/23]
33...Ne6= 34.Nc2 Threatening Nb4. **34...d4 35.Nb4**

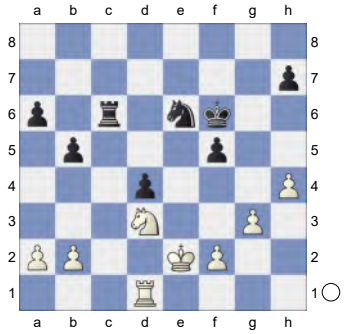


Strongly threatening Nc6+. **35...Rd6**

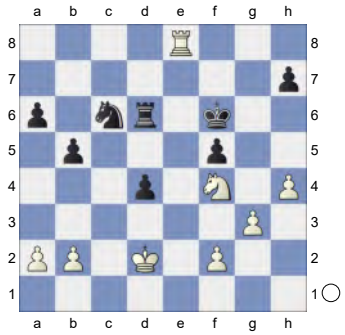


Inhibits Nc6+. **36.Ke2 f5 37.Nd3 Rc6** 0.51/21
[37...Rd8= 0.15/22 should be considered.]
38.Ne5!± Rd6 39.Rd1 0.01/24
[39.b4± 0.49/20 was preferrable.]
39...Kf6 0.58/22
[39...Nc5= 0.01/24]

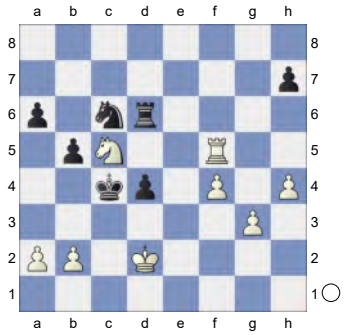
40.Nd3! Rc6



41.Kd2 Inhibits Rc2+. **41...Nd8 42.Nf4 Rd6** 0.92/24
[42...Ne6± 0.59/23]
43.Rc1 Rc6 44.Re1 Rd6 Prevents Nd5+. **45.Re8** &Bianco is more active. **45...Nc6?** 2.54/22
[45...h6± 0.97/20 was necessary.]

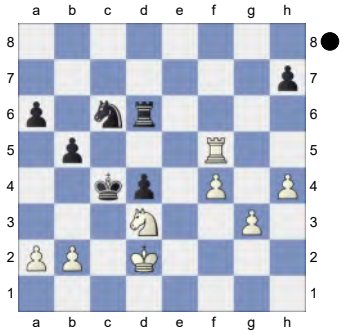


A mistake that costs the game. **46.Rf8++- Ke5 47.Nd3+ Ke6 48.Nc5+ Ke5?** 10.27/21
[48...Ke7 3.25/20 49.Rxf5 d3]
49.f4+ Kd5 50.Rxf5+ Kc4



51.Nd3

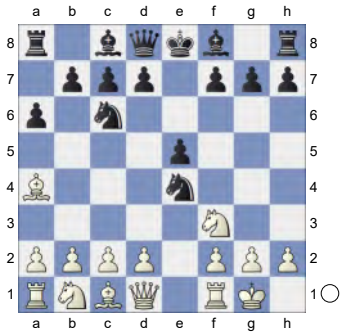
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.38
1-0

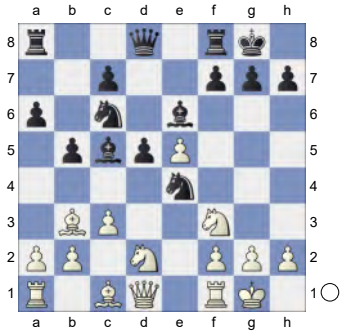
91 **C82**
□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2728**
■ **Erdos,Viktor** **2552**
Austrian Bundesliga 2023-2024 (7)

(90min+30sec)/40+(30min+30sec)
1.e4 0.13 3 **e5** 0.17 6 **2.Nf3** 0.21 3 **Nc6** 0.13 7 **3.Bb5** 0.21 2 **a6** 0.02 7 **4.Ba4** 0.31 2 **Nf6** 0.14 6 **5.0-0** 0.24 4 **Nxe4** 0.51 5

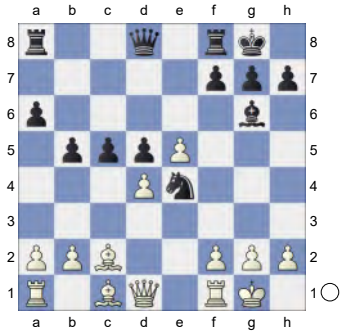


6.d4 0.21 4 **b5** 0.02 5 **7.Bb3** 0.21 4 **d5** 0.43 5 **8.dxe5** 0.03 8 **Be6** 0.36 6 **9.c3** 0.34 13 **Bc5** 0.39 20 **10.Nbd2** 0.41 32 **0-0** 0.44 28

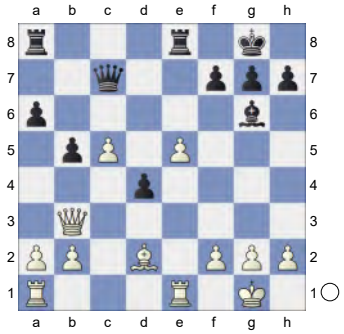
(Diagram)



11.Bc2 0.04 18 **Bf5** 0.52 1:00 **12.Nb3** 0.49 1:24 **Bg6** 0.57 50 **13.Nfd4** 0.57 7:54 **Bxd4** 0.58 1:52 **14.Nxd4** 0.59 55 **Nxd4** 0.06 1:41 **15.cxd4** 0.63 1:34 **c5** 0.41 9

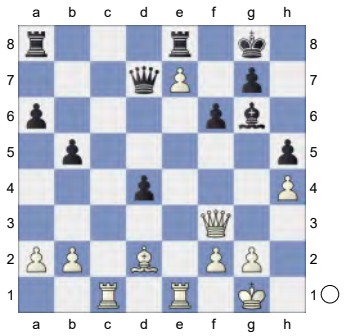


16.Bxe4 0.19 12:37 **Bxe4** 0.27 6:53 **17.dxc5** 0.26 2:05 **d4** 0.25 2:58 **18.Qb3** 0.29 56 **Qc7** 0.22 53:00 **19.Re1** 0.34 2:35 **Bg6** 0.69 1:06 **20.Bd2** 0.67 1:32 **Rfe8** 0.59 1:39

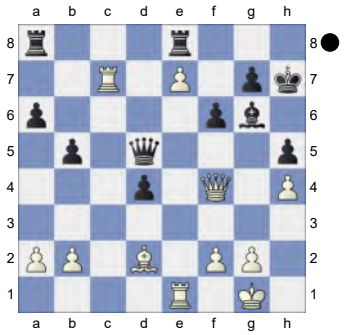


21.e6?! 0.00 12:43 Inaccuracy. Rac1 was best.
[21.Rac1 Re6]
21...Qxc5 0.06 10:22 **22.Rac1** 0.04 18 **Qf5** 0.07 8 **23.e7** 0.07 54 **Qd7** 0.03 19 **24.Qf3** 0.08 3:05 **f6** 0.07 6:16 **25.h4**

0.07 3:12 **h5** 0.05 3:51



26.Qg3 0.05 12 **Kh7** 0.04 1:29 **27.Rc7** 0.04 40 **Qd5** 0.02 19 **28.Qf4** 0.02 4:29



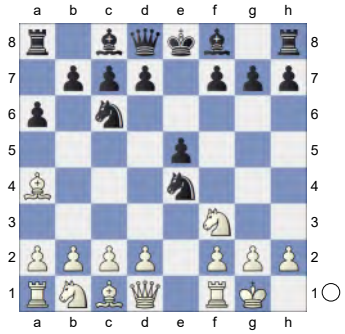
1-0

92 **C82**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2864**
■ **Niemann,Hans Moke** **2642**
Charity Cup Prelim (5.1) 20.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

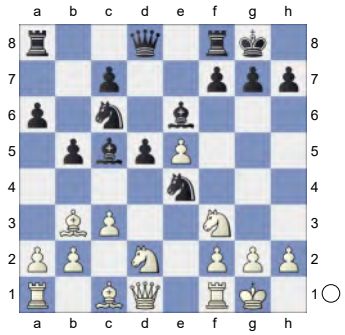
C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

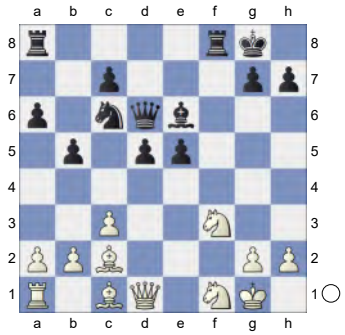
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0



11.Bc2 Nxf2 12.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 13.Kxf2 Nb3 is the strong threat. White is slightly better. **13...f6 14.Kg1 fxe5 15.Nf1 Qd6**



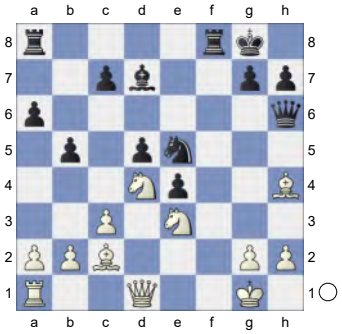
16.Bg5 White has compensation. **16...e4 17.Nd4 Ne5**

[17...Nxd4 18.Qxd4 c5 19.Qd2 h6 20.Bh4 Qc6 21.Re1 Ra7 22.b4 Raf7 23.Bb3 cxb4 24.cxb4 Qb6+ 25.Ne3 Kh8 26.Rd1 d4 27.Qxd4 Qxd4 28.Rxd4 Bxb3 29.axb3 Rc8 30.h3 Rc3 31.Rxe4 Rxb3 32.Ng4 Paskulj,K (2653)-Vit Spelar Sgf3 (2668) 5th Staunton Mem 2023 Colle

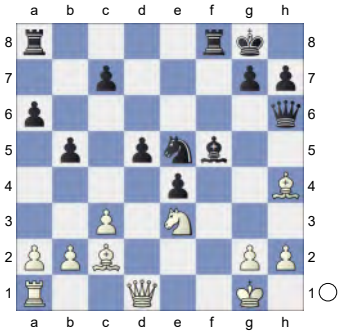
NS [John Watson] 0-1 (42)]

18.Ne3 Bd7 19.Bh4 Qh6N 1.54/23

[19...c5± 0.40/18]

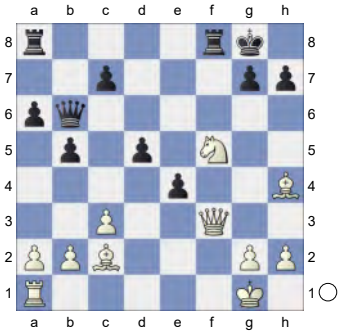


20.Ndf5!± Bxf5



21.Nxf5 Nf3+ 22.Qxf3! The board is on fire. **22...Qb6+** 1.92/22

[22...Qxh4± 1.38/21 23.Nxh4 exf3]

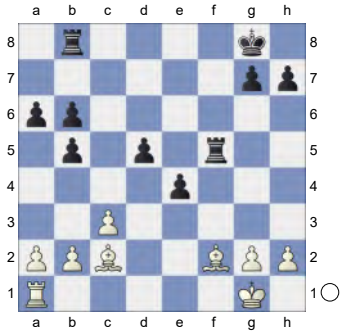


23.Qe3!+-

[Don't take 23.Bf2?! Qf6 24.Qe2 *(24.Bxe4? dxe4 25.Qxe4 Qxf5-+)* 24...Qxf5±]

23...Rxf5 24.Qxb6 cxb6 25.Bf2 Rb8

(Diagram)



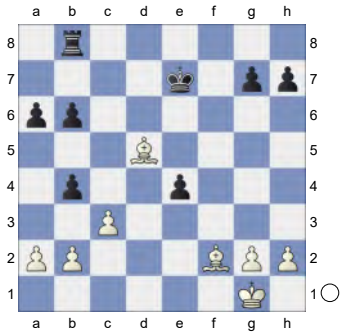
26.Rd1 Kf7 27.Bb3 Ke6 28.Rd4 Strongly threatening Rxe4+. **28...Ke7?** 4.20/21

[28...Re5 1.88/21]

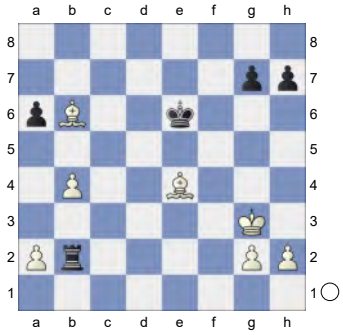
29.Rxd5

[Worse is 29.Bxd5 Rbf8 30.Bh4+ *(30.Rxe4+? Kd6∓)* 30...g5 31.Bxg5+ *(31.Rxe4+? Kd6-+)* 31...Rxg5 32.Rxe4+ Kd6∓]

29...Rxd5 30.Bxd5 b4

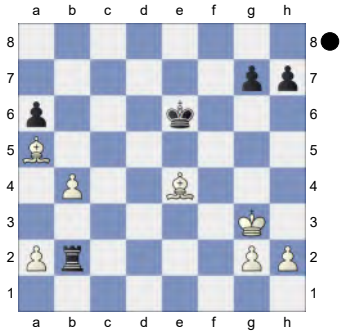


31.cxb4 Rc8 32.Bxb6 Rc1+ 33.Kf2 Rc2+ White is clearly winning. **34.Kg3 Rxb2 35.Bxe4 Ke6**



36.Ba5

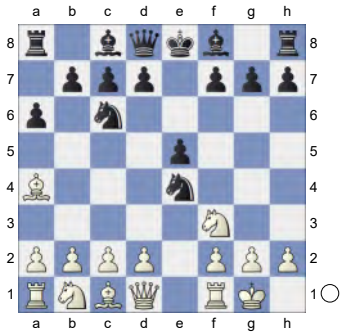
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.33
1-0

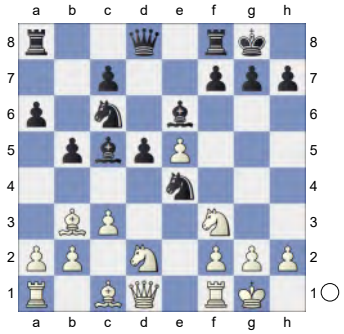
93 **C82**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2792**
■ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2702**
84th Tata Steel Masters (8.6) 23.01.2022
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

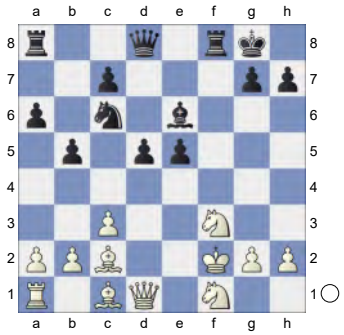


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0

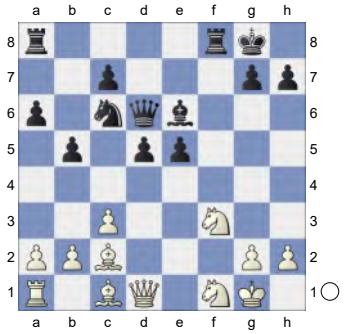
(Diagram)



11.Bc2 Nxf2 12.Rxf2 f6 13.Nf1 Black must now prevent Be3. **13...Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 fxe5**

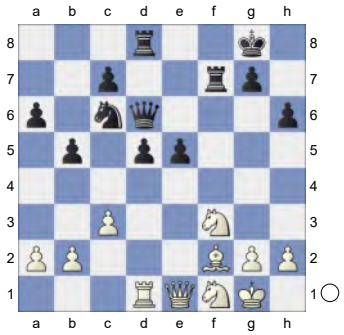


...e4 is the strong threat. **15.Kg1** White is slightly better. **15...Qd6**

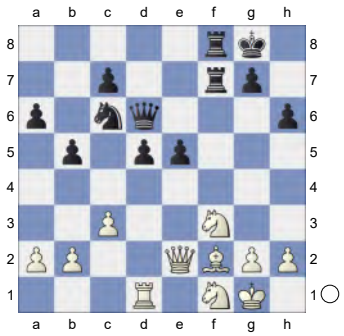


16.Be3 Rad8 0.62/19
[16...h6= 0.25/18]
17.Qe1 0.16/19
[17.Ng5!± 0.62/19 feels stronger. Bf5 18.Bxf5 Rxf5 19.Ng3]
17...Bf5 18.Bxf5 Rxf5 The position is equal. **19.Rd1 h6 20.Bf2** White has compensation. **20...Rf7**
[20...e4 21.Bg3 exf3 22.Bxd6 f2+ 23.Qxf2 Rxf2 24.Kxf2 Rxd6 25.Ne3 d4 26.cxd4 Nxd4 27.b4 Nc6

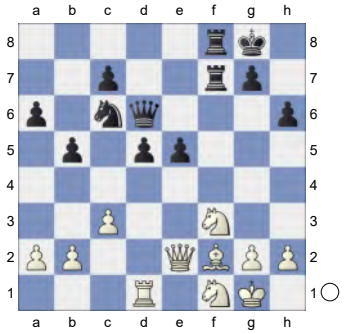
28.Rxd6 cxd6 29.Nd5 Kf7 30.Ke3 Ke6 31.Ke4 Ne7 32.Nf4+ Kf6 33.a3 g5 34.Nh5+ Kg6 35.Ng3 Fromm,M (2425)-Babula,V (2574) Germany 2023 ½-½ (48)]



21.Bg3N Qc5+ 22.Bf2 Qd6 23.Qe2 Rdf8

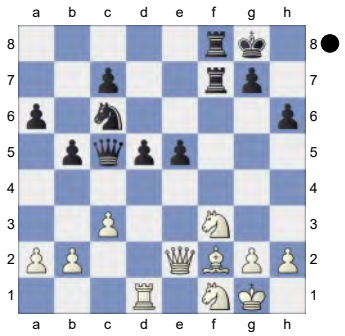


Hoping for ...e4. **24.Bg3 Qc5+ 25.Bf2 Qd6**



aiming for ...e4. **26.Bg3 Qc5+ 27.Bf2**

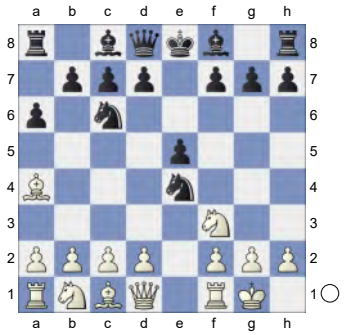
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

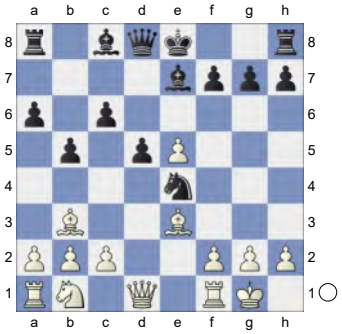
94 **C80**
□ **Aronian,Levon** **2782**
■ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **2727**
Tata Steel India Blitz (17.2) 21.11.2021
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

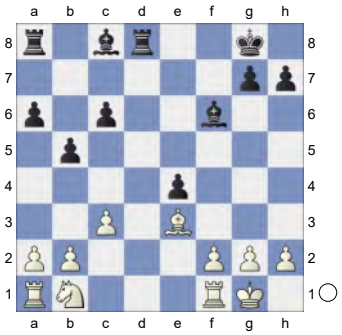


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.dxe5 c6 10.Be3 Be7

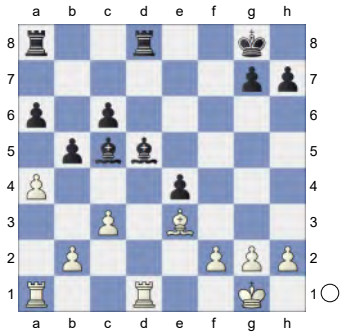
(Diagram)



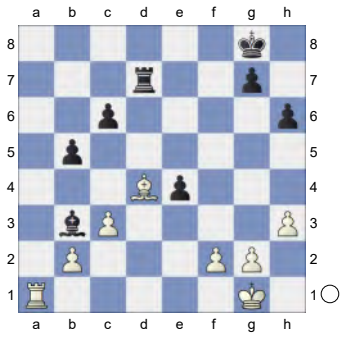
11.c3 0-0 12.Bc2 f6N
[12...f5 13.f3 f4 14.Bd4 Ng5 15.Nd2 c5 16.Bf2 Bf5 17.Nb3 Ne6 18.Re1 Qd7 19.Qd2 Rad8 20.a4 bxa4 21.Nc1 Bxc2 22.Qxc2 d4 23.cxd4 Nxd4 24.Qc4+ Qd5 25.Qxa4 Ne6 26.Ne2 c4 27.Nc3 Nikolin,Z (2406)-Kravitz,N (2574) Enghien les Bains 2022 CBM 087 Extra [John Watson] 1-0 (53)]
13.Bxe4
[13.exf6 is more complex. Nxf6 14.h3 Bd6 15.Nd2 Be6 16.f4 Re8 17.Qf3 c5 18.Rae1 Bf7 19.Bf2 Qc7 20.g3 Bh5 21.Qg2 Be2 22.Ne4 Bxf1 23.Nxf6+ gxf6 24.Qxd5+ Kh8 25.Rxf1 Rad8 26.Qh5 Bf8 27.Rd1 Rxd1+ 28.Qxd1 Qf7 29.b3 c4 30.bxc4 Ac,M Soviet Union 200 Traps In The Opening [Solution 4] (32) bxc4 31.h4 f5 32.Qf3 Nimzo Indian Early Devia-4...b6 5.Nge2 Ne4 6.Bd2 Nxd2 Lifetime Repertoires: Swiercz's 1. d4 - 2023 (32)]
13...dxe4 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Qxd8 Rxd8



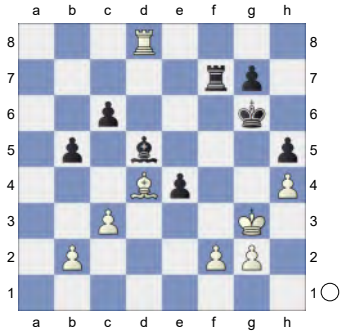
16.Nd2 Bf5 17.Nb3 Be6 18.Nc5 Bd5 19.a4 Be7 20.Rfd1 0.07/20
[20.Rfe1± 0.43/22]
20...Bxc5=



21.Bxc5 Bb3 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.axb5 axb5± 0.69/25 Endgame KRB-KRB
[23...cxb5= 0.30/25 24.Bd4 Rd6]
24.Bd4! Rd7 25.h3 h6

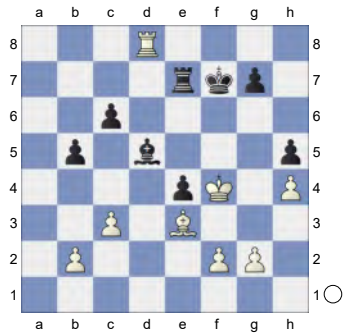


26.Kh2 Kh7 27.Kg3 Rf7 28.h4 Kg6 29.Ra8 Bd5 30.Rd8 h5

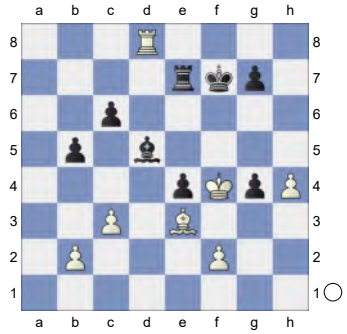


31.Rd6+ Kf5 32.Rd8 -0.01/26
[32.Kh3± 0.63/26]
32...Re7 0.66/25
[32...Kg6!= -0.01/26]
33.Be3 Kg6 34.Kf4 Kf7 1.28/27
[34...Rf7+± 0.69/26 35.Ke5 Re7+

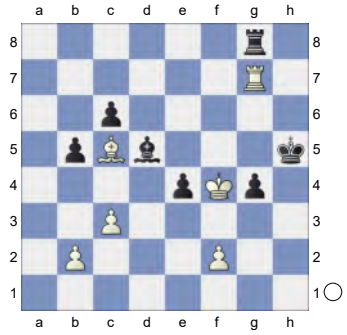
36.Kd6 Rf7]



35.g4 0.61/26
[35.g3!± 1.28/27]
35...hxg4

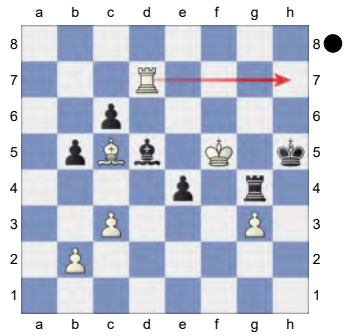


36.Bc5 Re8 1.00/24
[36...e3± 0.63/24 37.fxe3 *(37.Bxe7? e2-+)* 37...Re4+ 38.Kg3 g6]
37.Rd7+± Kg6 38.h5+ -0.01/28
[White should try 38.Rc7± 0.92/26]
38...Kh6= The position is equal. **39.Rc7 Kxh5 40.Rxg7 Rg8**

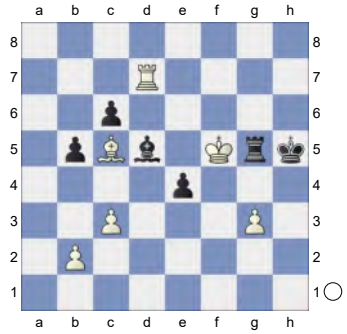


41.Rd7 g3 42.fxg3 Rg4+ 43.Kf5

(Diagram)



Rg5+ 44.Kf4 Rg4+ 45.Kf5 Rg5+

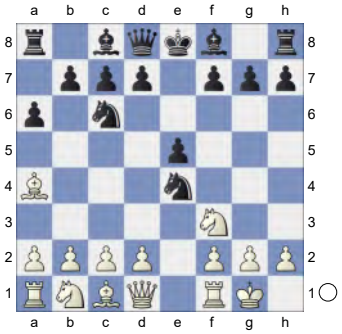


Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)
½-½

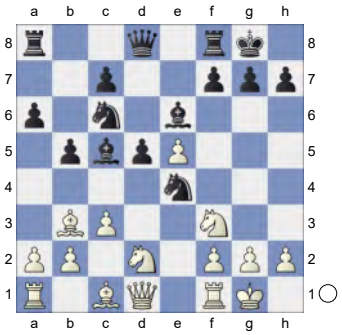
95 **C82**
□ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2760**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2800**
ch-USA 2021 Saint Louis USA (2.1)
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
Speelman,J: 'Inf 48/(455)' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

(Diagram)



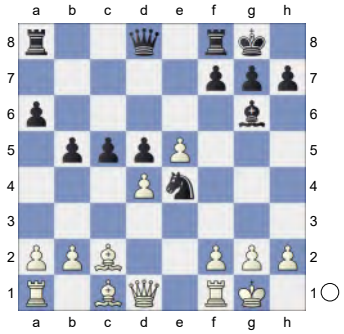
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0



11.Bc2 Bf5 12.Nb3 Bg6 13.Nfd4 Bxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4N

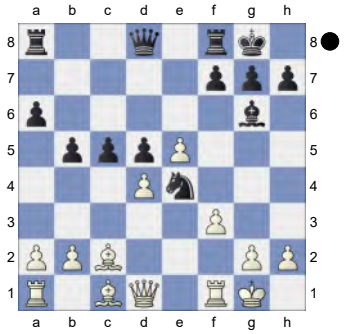
[14...Qd7 15.f4 *(15.Nxc6 Qxc6 16.Be3 Rfe8 17.f3 Nxc3 18.Qd2 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Rxe5 20.Rae1 Ne2+ 21.Rxe2 Qxc2 22.Rxc2 Rxe3* Speelman,J (2615)-Timman,J (2635) London 1989 CI1-130 [Speelman, Jonathan S]*)* 15...Nxd4 16.cxd4 f6 17.Be3 fxe5 18.fxe5 *(18.dxe5 Rad8 19.g4 Qe7 20.f5 Be8 21.e6 d4 22.Qd3 Bc6 23.Bf4 Bb7 24.Rae1 Nf6 25.g5 Nd5 26.Qxd4 Nxf4 27.Qxf4 Qc5+ 28.Qf2 Rd2 29.Bb3 Rxf2 30.e7+ Bd5 31.Bxd5+ Qxd5 32.exf8Q+ Kxf8* Mondry,M (2055)-7.♖e1 ♗d7_60561 (2200) Reykjavik 1996 ZUS C73 [John Watson] ½-½ (33) *)* 18...Rxf1+ 19.Qxf1 Rf8 20.Qe2 Qe6 21.Rf1 Rxf1+ ½-½ (21) Logan,T (2545)-Baklan,N (2615) Norge 19/438 1994 CBM 039 [Auzins, Sh Riga 13/1981]]

15.cxd4 c5!

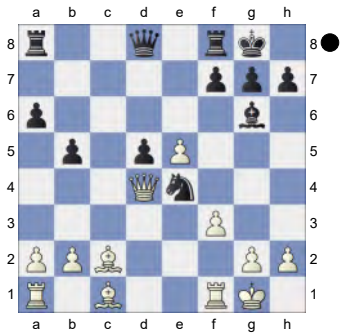


16.f3 -0.01/20

[16.f4± 0.56/20 Qc8 17.g4]



16...cxd4!= 17.Qxd4



Rc8! 18.Bb3 Prevents Rc4.

[18.fxe4 Rxc2 19.exd5 Rc4∓]

18...Nc5 19.Be3

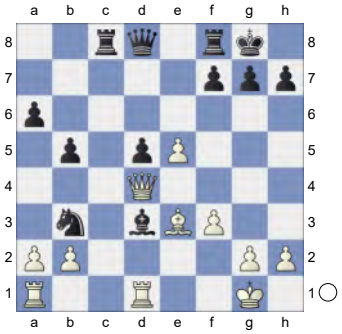
[19.Bxd5? Ne6 20.Qd1 Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Rcd8-+]

19...Bd3! 20.Rfd1↑ White has the initiative.

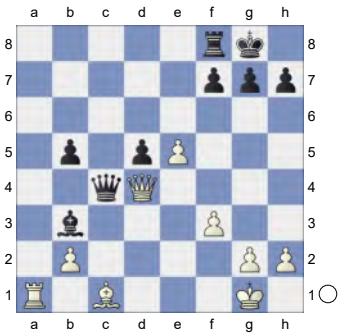
[20.Bxd5 Bxf1 21.Rxf1 Qe7=]

20...Nxb3

(Diagram)

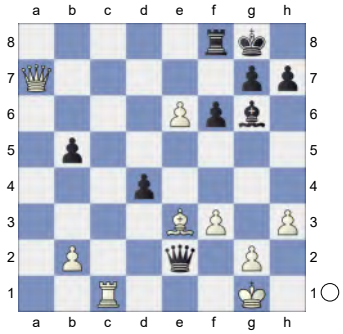


21.axb3 Bc2 22.Rdc1 Bxb3 23.Rxa6 0.12/21
[23.Rc3± 0.44/20 Bc4 24.Rxa6]
23...Rxc1+ 24.Bxc1 Qc8 25.Ra1 Qc4 0.59/22
[25...Re8= 0.28/19 should be considered.]

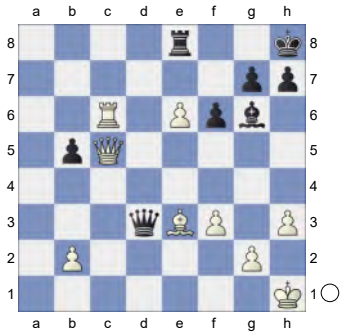


26.Be3± Bc2 0.96/22
[26...Qc2± 0.64/20]
27.e6± f6 1.47/21
[⌓27...Qxd4 0.94/19 28.exf7+ Rxf7 29.Bxd4 Rc7]
28.Qa7! Bg6 29.Rc1 Qe2 30.h3! &Bianco is much more active. **30...d4** 1.81/21
[30...Kh8± 1.46/23 is a better defense. 31.Rc7 Rg8]

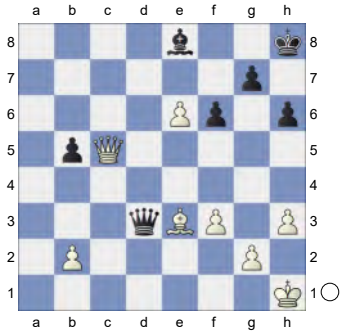
(Diagram)



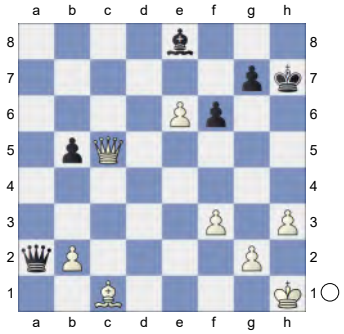
31.Qxd4+- Re8 32.Rc6 Qd3 2.30/22
[32...Bd3? 33.Bf2 Kh8 34.Qd7+-]
[⌓32...b4 1.75/23 33.Kh2 Qd3]
33.Qa7 And now Rc7 would win.
33...Kh8 34.Kh1 1.21/21
[34.Bd4+- 2.06/21]
34...Bh5 2.51/21
[34...Qb3± 1.21/21]
35.Qc5 Bg6



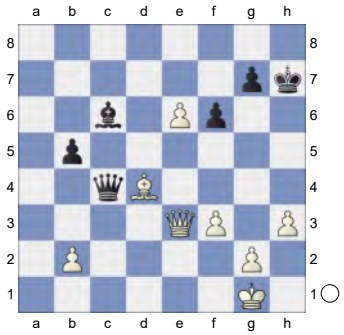
36.Rc8 Qf8+! would kill now. **36...h6**
37.Rxe8+ Bxe8



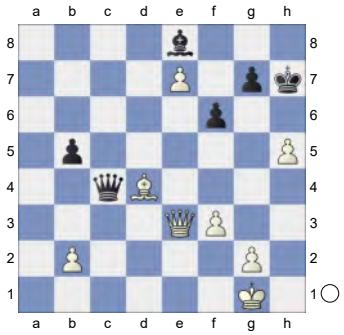
38.Bxh6! White threatens Qf8+ and mate. **38...Kh7 39.Be3 Qb1+** 2.59/23
[⌓39...Qb3 1.87/23 40.e7 Kg8]
40.Bc1 Qa2
(Diagram)



41.Qe3 Qd5 42.Bd2 Kg6 43.Bc3 Bc6 44.Bd4 Kh7 45.Kg1 Qc4

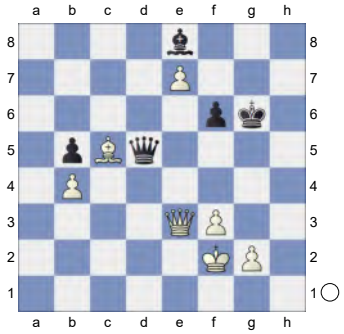


46.Kh2 Qd5 47.Kg1? -0.01/15
[47.Kg3+- 2.90/20]
47...Qc4!= 48.h4 Bd5 49.e7 Bc6 50.h5 Be8

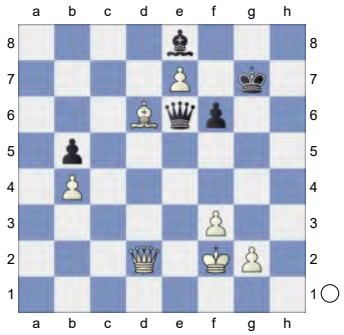


51.h6 Qc6 52.hxg7 Kxg7 53.b4
[Don't play 53.Qg5+?! Kf7 54.Qh6 Kxe7±]
53...Qd5 54.Kf2 Kf7 55.Bc5 Kg6

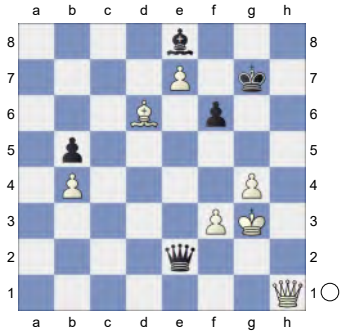
(Diagram)



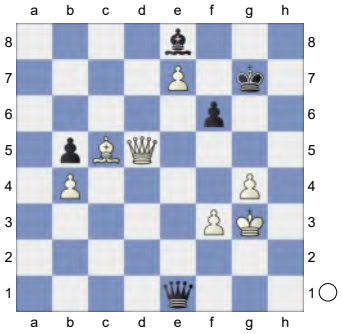
56.Qf4 Qa2+ 57.Kg3 Qe6 58.Qd2 Qe5+ 59.Kf2 Kg7 60.Bd6 Qe6



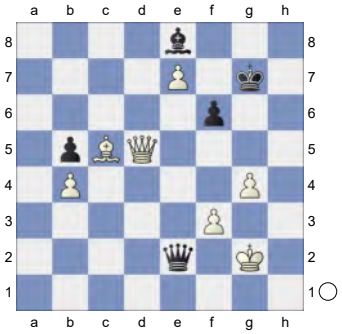
61.Qf4 Kg6 62.g4 Qa2+ 63.Kg3 Qe2 2.40/28
[63...Qd5 1.99/26 was worth a try. 64.Bc5 Qe5]
64.Qc1 Kf7 2.75/25
[64...Kg7 1.93/26 might work better. 65.Bc5 Bc6]
65.Qh1 Kg7



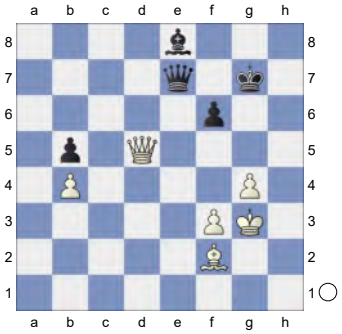
66.Qc1? 0.01/24 Inhibits Bc6.
[White should try 66.Qa1!+- 2.16/25]
66...Kf7! 67.Qc3 Qd1 68.Bc5 Qe2 69.Qb3+ Kg7 70.Qd5 1.16/27
[70.Qe3!+- 2.21/25 Qxe3 71.Bxe3]
70...Qe1+±



71.Kg2 Qe2+

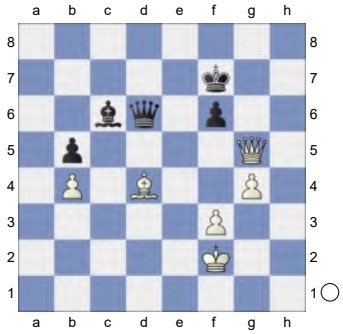


72.Kh3 -0.01/19
[Only move: 72.Bf2!± 1.04/29]
72...Qf1+!= 73.Kh2 Hoping for Qe4. **73...Qe2+! 74.Kg3** Threatens to win with Qd4. **74...Qe1+ 75.Bf2! Qxe7** 1.29/25
[⌓75...Qxb4 0.95/23 76.Qc5 *(76.Qd8 Kf7±)* 76...Qd2]

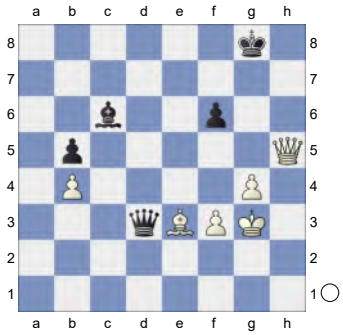


76.Qd2 Qe5+ 77.Kg2 Bc6 78.Bd4 Qe6 79.Kf2 Qd6 80.Qg5+ Kf7

(Diagram)

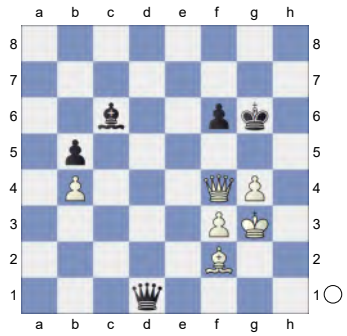


81.Qh5+ Kg7 82.Be3 Threatening mate with Bh6+. **82...Qd3 83.Bh6+** 0.01/27
[83.Qc5± 1.28/24 Qd5 84.Qxd5 Bxd5 85.f4]
83...Kg8! 84.Be3 Qc2+ 0.77/27
[84...Kg7!= -0.01/23 keeps the balance.]
85.Kg3± Qd3 1.29/26
[⌓85...Qc3 0.84/24]

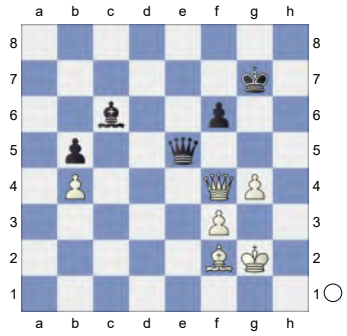


86.Qh6 0.77/24
[White should play 86.Qc5 1.29/26]
86...Kf7 87.Qf4 Strongly threatening Bd4. **87...Qd1 88.Qc7+ Qd7 89.Qf4** 0.01/22
[Better is 89.Qxd7+± 1.29/30 Bxd7 90.f4]
89...Qd1!= 90.Bf2 Prevents Qe1. Black must now prevent g5. **90...Kg6**

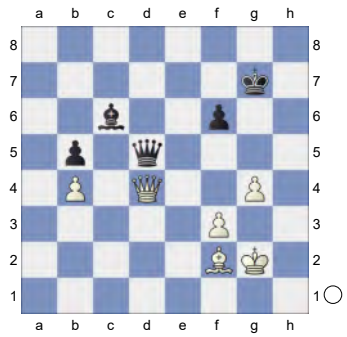
(Diagram)



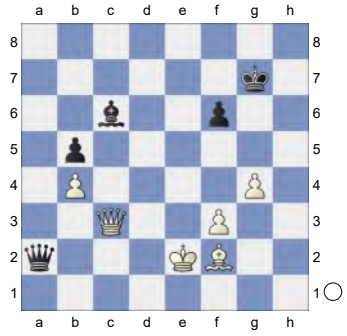
Prevents g5. **91.Qf5+ Kg7 92.Qf4** 0.01/23
[92.Kg2± 0.68/25]
92...Kg6! 93.Qf5+ 0.01/22
[93.Kg2± 0.63/26]
93...Kg7 94.Kg2 Qd5 1.21/29
[94...Qe2± 0.65/25]
95.Qf4 0.77/24
[⌓95.Qxd5 1.21/29 Bxd5 96.Kg3]
95...Qe5±



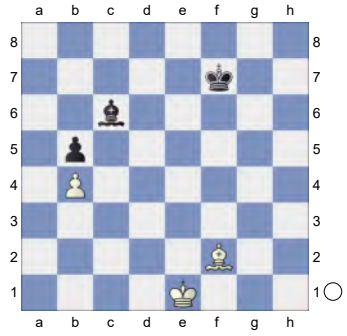
96.Qd2 Qe6 97.Qd4 0.01/18
[97.Kg3± 0.66/25]
97...Qd5 1.08/26
[97...Kg8= 0.01/18]



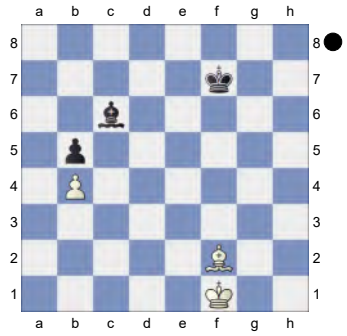
98.Qc3 0.77/24
[⌓98.Qxd5! 1.08/26 Bxd5 99.Kg3]
98...Qe6 99.Kf1 Qd5! 100.Ke2 0.01/19
[100.g5± 0.63/27 Qxf3 101.Qxf3 Bxf3 102.Bd4]
100...Qa2+!=
[But not 100...Kf7 101.Bh4 Qa2+ 102.Ke1 Qe6+ 103.Kf2±]



101.Kf1 Qd5! 102.g5 Qxf3 103.gxf6+ 0.01/26
[103.Qxf3± 0.54/28 Bxf3 104.Bd4]
103...Qxf6 The position is equal.
104.Qxf6+ Kxf6± KB-KB **105.Ke1 Kf7**



106.Kf1 Kf6 107.Ke1 Kf7 108.Kf1



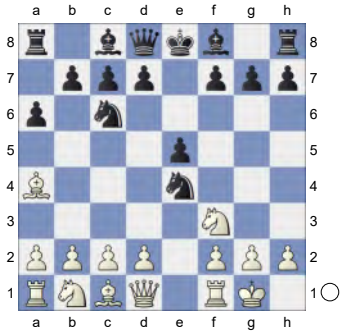
Black escapes into a draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.21

(precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)
½-½

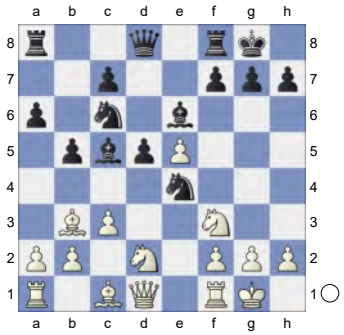
96 **C82**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2855**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2762**
Meltwater Tour Final 2021 (2.2) 26.09.21
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

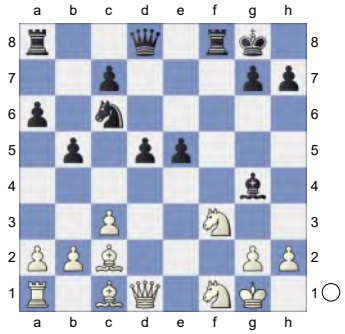


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0

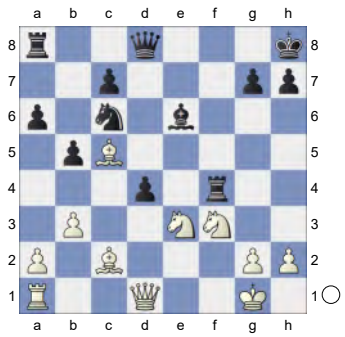


11.Bc2 Nxf2 12.Rxf2 f6 13.Nf1 Be3 is the strong threat. **13...Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 fxe5 15.Kg1** White is slightly better. **15...Bg4**

(Diagram)

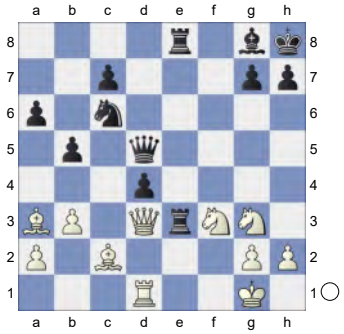


16.Ne3 White has compensation.
16...Be6 17.b3 Kh8N 0.80/19
[17...d4± 0.38/19 18.cxd4 *(18.Qd3 g6 19.cxd4 Nxd4 20.Bb2 Nxf3+ 21.gxf3 Rxf3 22.Qe2 Qg5+ 23.Ng2 Raf8 24.h4 Qg3 25.Bxe5 Qg4 26.Re1 Bd5 27.Bd1 Qf5 28.Bd4 Rg3 29.Bc2 Qd7* 0-1 (29) Firouzja,A (2777)-Nakamura,H (2787) Chess.com INT 2023) 18...exd4]
[17...a5 18.c4 bxc4 19.bxc4 dxc4 20.Qxd8 Raxd8 21.Ng5 Nd4 22.Bxh7+ Kh8 23.Ba3 Rf4 24.Bc5 Rb8 25.Bxd4 exd4 26.Nxe6 Rf6 27.Nxc4 Kxh7 28.Ng5+ Kg8 29.Nf3 c5 30.Rc1 a4 31.h4 Chapter-Open Spanish 9.c3 Bc5 [GM Ivan Cheparinov] (31)]
18.Ba3± Rf4 19.Bc5 0.01/19
[19.Rc1!± 0.90/19]
19...d4? 1.69/23
[19...Qf6!= 0.01/19 and Black is okay.]
20.cxd4 exd4

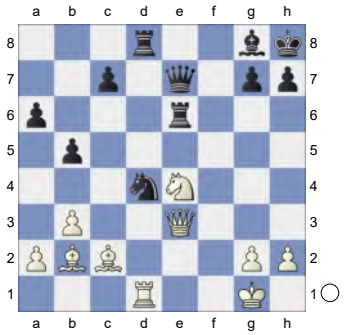


21.Qd3 0.11/21 **Bg8!=** Hoping for ...

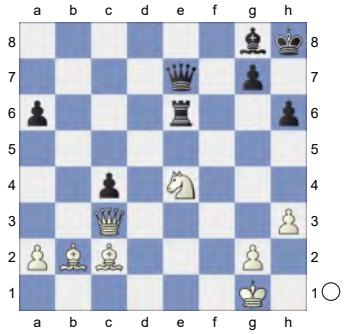
Rxf3.
[21...g6 22.Re1]
22.Nf5 Qd5 23.Ba3 &Bianco is more active. **23...Re8 24.Rd1 Rfe4** 1.04/21
[24...a5!± 0.38/21]
25.Ng3±
[25.N5xd4?! Nxd4 26.Nxd4 Re1+ 27.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 28.Kf2 Ra1∓]
25...Re3



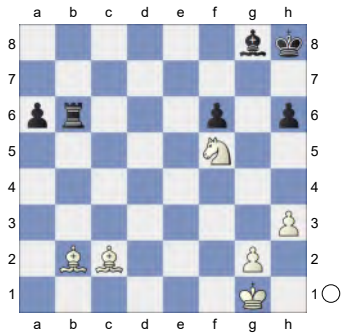
26.Qd2 0.29/21
[26.Qf1± 0.77/20]
26...R3e6? 2.09/20
[26...Be6!= 0.29/21]
27.Bb2+- Rd8 28.Nxd4 Qc5 29.Ne4 1.12/21
[Better is 29.Qf2+- 1.86/19 Ree8 30.Ngf5]
29...Qe7± 30.Qe3 0.50/23
[30.Qf4± 0.90/22 Black must now prevent Nf5. Nxd4 31.Rxd4 *(31.Bxd4 c5=)*]
30...Nxd4±



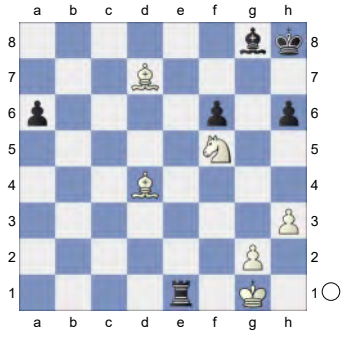
31.Rxd4 Rxd4 32.Qxd4 c5 33.Qc3 Strongly threatening Ng3. **33...c4** 1.47/20 White leaves nothing to chance now.
[⌓33...h5 0.71/22]
34.bxc4± bxc4 1.91/21
[34...b4± 1.47/20 35.Qd4 h5]
35.h3 1.36/21
[35.Ng3+- 1.91/21]
35...h6 2.03/20
[35...Qa7+± 1.36/21 36.Kh1 Re7]



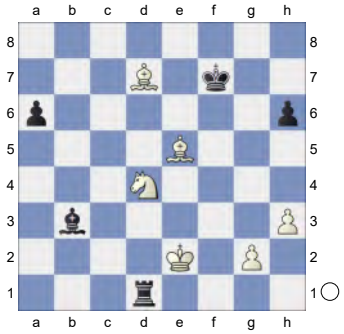
36.Qxc4 Rb6 37.Qc3 Bxa2 38.Ng3→ Black is in trouble. **38...Bg8** 3.24/21
[⌓38...Rb5 2.05/22 39.Qd3 Bg8]
39.Nf5+- Qf6 40.Qxf6 gxf6



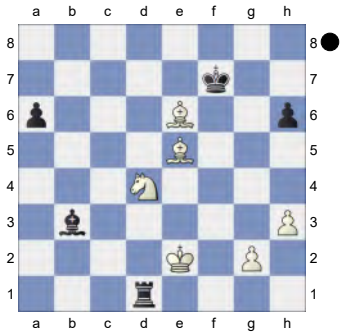
41.Bd4 Rc6 42.Be4 Re6 43.Bd5 Re8 44.Bc6 This bishop pair is nice. **44...Re6 45.Bd7 Re1+**



46.Kf2 Rd1 47.Ke2
[Don't do 47.Bxf6+ Kh7+-]
47...Bb3 48.Bxf6+ Kh7 4.07/22
[⌓48...Kg8 2.60/23]
49.Nd4 And now Bf5+ would win. White is winning. **49...Kg6 50.Be5** aiming for Be8+.
[Not 50.Nxb3 Rxd7 51.Bc3 Rd5±]
50...Kf7



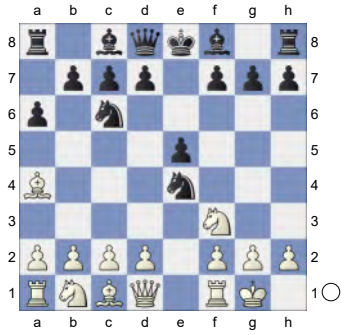
Against Be8+ **51.Be6+!**



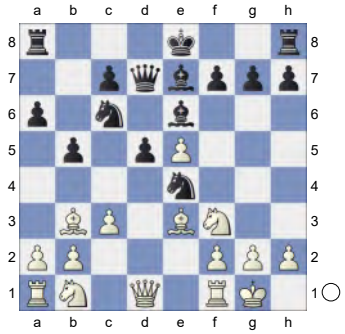
Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.28 (precise)
1-0

97 **C80**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2806**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2782**
Saint Louis Rapid 2021 (8.5) 13.08.2021
[Kitty Kat]

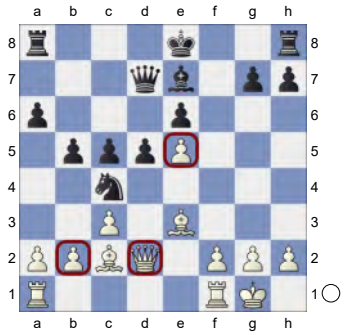
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
This correspondence game shows one of the weirder lines in the repertoire fizzling out into a fairly stable position for both sides. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Qd7



11.Nbd2 Nxd2 12.Qxd2 Na5 13.Nd4 White has an edge. **13...c5 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Bc2 Nc4**



16.Qe2 Nxe5N
[16...Nxb2 17.Qh5+ *(17.Bc1 Nc4 18.a4 b4 19.Qh5+ Kd8 20.Bd3 Kc7 21.Bxc4 dxc4 22.Rd1 Qe8 23.Qg4 Rd8 24.Re1 Qc6 25.Qxc4 a5 26.Be3 Rb8 27.Rec1 Rhd8 28.cxb4 axb4 29.Rab1 Qd5 30.Qe2 Rb7 31.h3 g6* Model Games-½-½ Robert

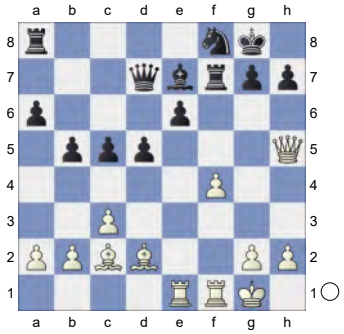
Booij (2362) vs. (40)) 17...Kd8 18.Qf7 Kc7 19.Qxg7 Rag8 20.Qf7 Nc4 9.Be3-9.Be3 #5]

17.Rae1 0.09/22

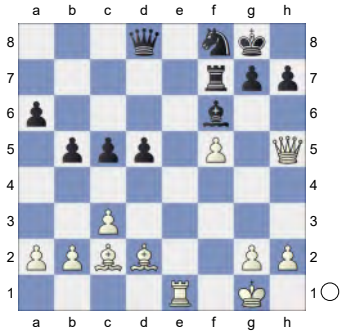
[17.Rad1± 0.56/18]

17...0-0!= 18.Qh5 Ng6! 19.Bd2 Rf7 20.f4 Nf8 0.22/17

[⌓20...c4 -0.18/19]



21.f5 e5 22.Rxe5 Bf6 23.Re2 Re8 24.Rxe8 Qxe8 25.Re1 Qd8



26.Qf3 d4 27.Be4 Kh8 28.c4 Re7 0.64/22

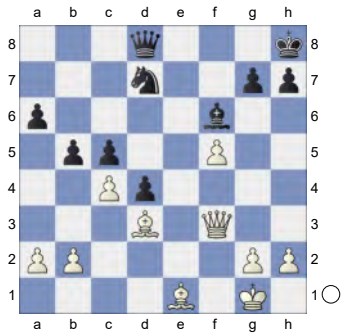
[28...Nd7= 0.21/20 deserves consideration.]

29.Bd3!± aiming for Rxe7. &Bianco is more active. A strong pair of Bishops.

29...Rxe1+ 30.Bxe1 Nd7 1.25/21

[30...b4± 0.63/20]

(Diagram)



31.Bg3? -1.31/20

[31.cxb5± 1.25/21 keeps the pressure on. Ne5 32.Qe4 axb5 33.Bxb5]

31...Nb6 -0.01/23

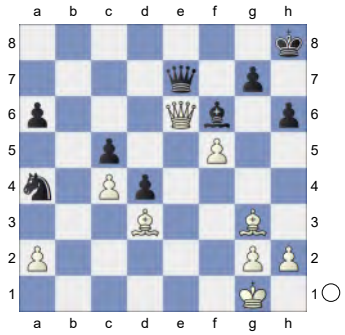
[31...bxc4!∓ -1.31/20 32.Bxc4 Nb6 33.Bxa6 c4]

32.b3= bxc4 33.bxc4 h6 34.Qc6 Qe7 35.Qe6

[35.Qxb6 Qe3+ 36.Bf2 Qxd3∓]

35...Na4 0.32/22

[35...Qd8= 0.01/24 feels stronger.]

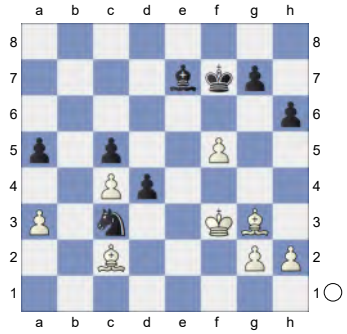


36.Qxe7!± **Bxe7** Endgame KBB-KBN

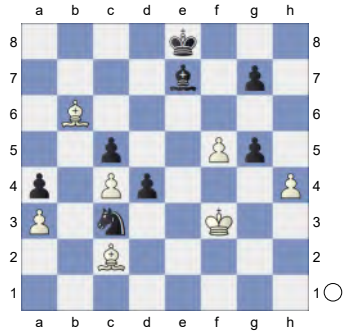
37.Kf2 Kg8 38.Kf3 Kf7 39.Bc2 Nc3 40.a3 a5 0.83/27

[40...Ke8± 0.49/22]

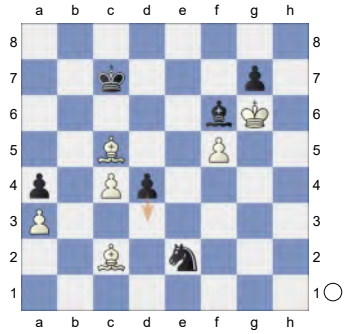
(Diagram)



41.Bc7 a4 42.g4 Bg5 43.Bb6 Be7 44.h4 Ke8 1.18/27
[Black should try 44...Kf6 0.86/27]
45.g5± hxg5

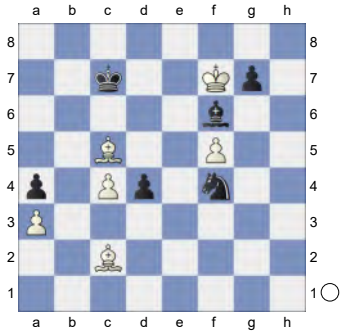


46.hxg5 Bxg5 47.Bxc5 Bf6 48.Kg4 Kd7 49.Kh5 Kg6 is the strong threat.
49...Kc7 2.23/25
[49...Kc6? 50.Bf8+-]
[49...Ne2± 1.09/23]
50.Kg6+- Ne2

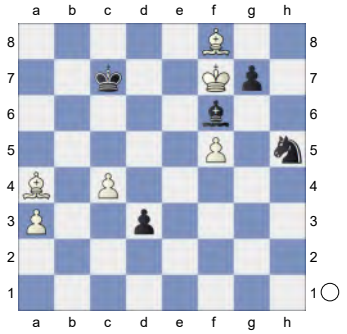


51.Kf7 Strongly threatening Bf8.
[Less strong is 51.Bxa4 d3±]
51...Nf4

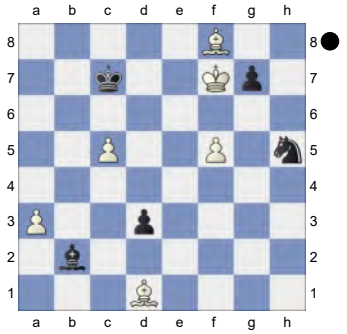
(Diagram)



52.Bf8!
[Not 52.Bxa4 Nd3 53.Bf8 Ne5+ 54.Ke6 Nxc4±]
52...d3 53.Bxa4 Nh5 2.54/22
[⌓53...Bb2 1.81/19 54.Bxg7 Bxg7]



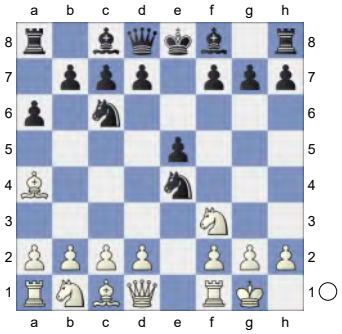
54.c5! Bb2? 12.97/23
[54...Kc8 2.35/20 55.Bd6 Bd8]
55.Bd1



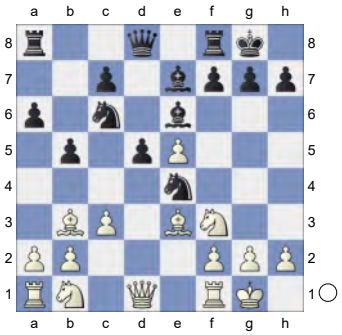
Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)
1-0

98 **C80**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2806**
■ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2758**
Saint Louis Blitz 2021 (12.5) 15.08.2021
[Kitty Kat]

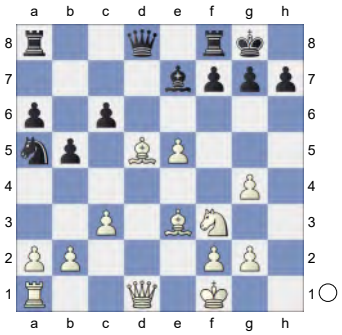
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



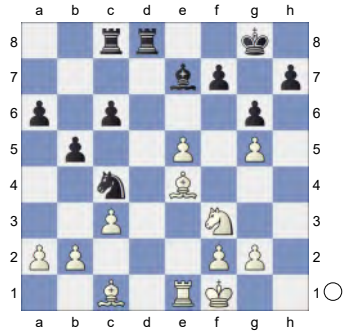
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 0-0



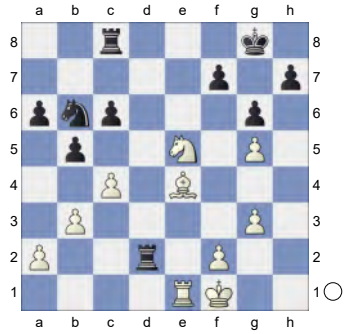
11.Nbd2 Bg4 12.h3 Nxd2 13.hxg4 Nxf1 14.Kxf1 The position is equal.
14...Na5 15.Bxd5 c6



16.Be4 Black should prevent Qxd8. A strong pair of Bishops. **16...Qxd1+! 17.Rxd1 Nc4 18.Bc1** White has compensation. **18...Rfd8 19.Re1 Rac8 20.g5**
[20.Nd4 Bc5 21.b3 Nxe5 22.Bf5 Bxd4 23.cxd4 Nd7 24.Bg5 g6 ½-½ (24) Norman,N-Klewe,W corr 155/(131) 2022 [Perunovic,Milos]]
20...g6

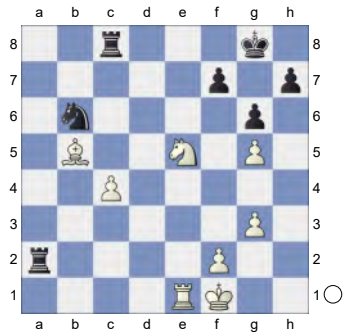


21.g3 Bf8N 22.b3 Nb6 23.Bd2 Bg7 24.c4 Bxe5 25.Nxe5 -1.00/24
[Better is 25.cxb5∓ -0.35/23 cxb5 26.Be3]
25...Rxd2∓

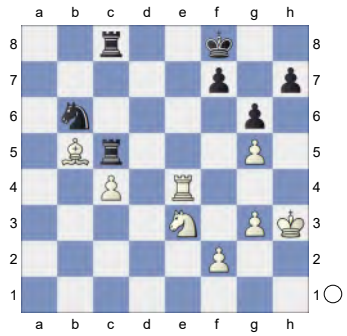


26.Bxc6 bxc4
[Stronger than 26...Rxa2 27.c5 Na8 28.Bd5∓]
27.bxc4 Rc2 28.Bb7 Re8 29.Bxa6 Rxa2 30.Bb5 Rc8 -0.23/21
[30...Re7∓ -0.80/22]

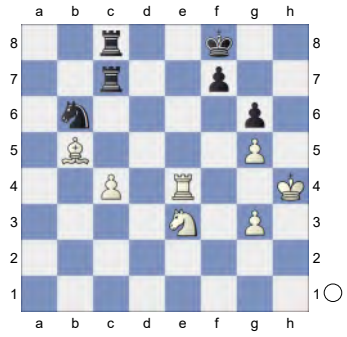
(Diagram)



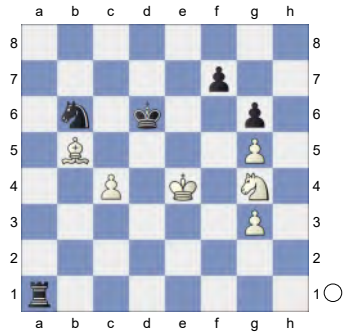
31.Ng4 Ra7 -0.01/23
[But not 31...Nxc4 32.Bxc4 Ra7 33.Re4±]
[31...Rc2∓ -0.50/23 32.Ne3 Rd2]
32.Re4 -0.33/22
[32.Nf6+= -0.01/23 Kg7 33.Ne8+ Kf8 34.Nf6 *(34.Nd6 Rd8∓)*]
32...Kg7∓ 33.Kg2 -0.68/22
[⌓33.Nf6 -0.36/22]
33...Rac7 -0.21/21
[33...Na4∓ -0.68/22 might be stronger. 34.Re3 Nc5]
34.Ne3 -0.96/22
[34.Nf6= -0.21/21 keeps the balance.]
34...Kf8 -0.48/22
[34...Rd8∓ -0.96/22]
35.Kh3 -0.79/23
[35.Rd4∓ -0.48/22]
35...Rc5∓



36.f4 R5c7 -0.12/21
[36...Kg7∓ -0.79/22]
37.Rd4= Kg7 38.Kh4 -0.50/22
[White should try 38.f5= 0.01/19]
38...h6 -0.01/19
[38...Rc5∓ -0.50/22]
39.Re4? -2.16/21
[39.gxh6+= -0.01/19 Kxh6 40.Rd6]
39...hxg5+-+ 40.fxg5 Kf8 -1.16/23
[40...Rd8-+ -2.06/24 Strongly threatening ...Nc8. 41.Kg4 Rc5]

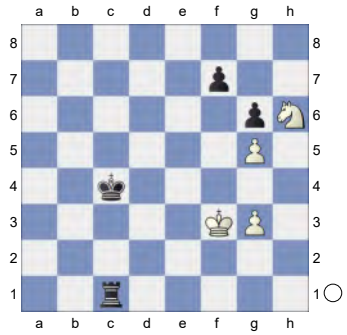


41.Kg4 -1.94/22
[41.Rd4∓ -1.16/23]
41...Re7 42.Rxe7 -2.01/22
[42.Kf4∓ -1.41/22]
42...Kxe7∓ Endgame KRN-KBN **43.Kf4** -2.95/25
[⌓43.Nd5+ -2.02/27 Nxd5 44.cxd5]
43...Kd6-+ 44.Ke4 Ra8? -0.17/25
[44...Rc5-+ -2.67/23 Hoping for ... Nd7. 45.Kf4 Nd7 46.Bxd7 Kxd7]
45.Ng4? -2.01/24
[45.Kd4= -0.17/25 and White stays safe.]
45...Ra1 -1.20/22
[45...Na4-+ -2.01/24 46.Bxa4 Rxa4]

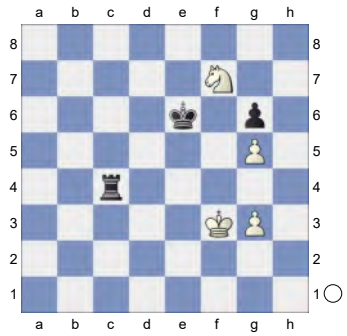


46.Kf3? -2.93/23
[46.Kd4∓ -1.20/22 might work better.

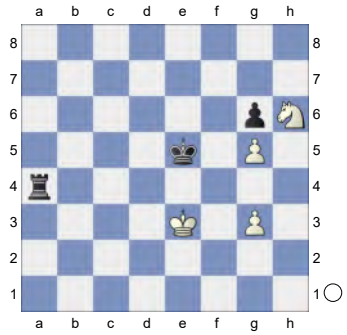
Rd1+ 47.Ke4]
46...Rc1 47.Ne3 Ke5 48.Ng4+ Kd4 49.Nh6 Nxc4 50.Bxc4 -7.55/32
[⌓50.Ba6 -4.02/23]
50...Kxc4



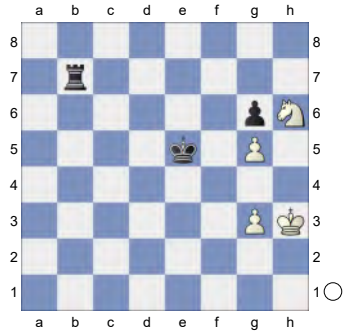
KR-KN **51.Kg2 Kd5 52.Nxf7** -8.26/38
[⌓52.Kf3 -5.08/28 Rc7 53.Ng4]
52...Rc2+? -2.86/36
[52...Ke4 -8.26/38 53.Nh6 Rc5]
53.Kf3 Rc3+ 54.Kg4? -7.97/35
[54.Kf4 -2.91/37 Rc8 55.Nh6]
54...Rc4+? -2.85/30
[54...Rc8 -7.97/35 55.Nh6 Rf8]
55.Kf3 Ke6



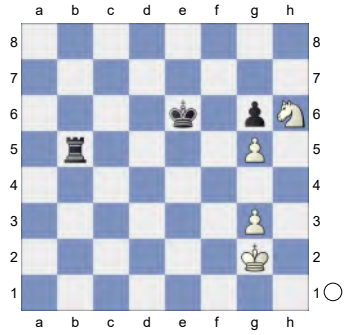
56.Nh6 Ra4 57.Ke3 Ke5



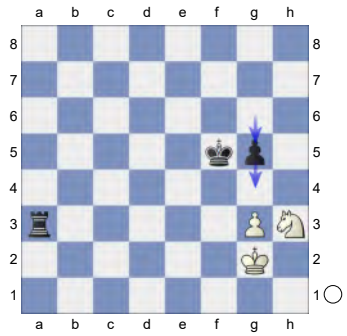
...Ra3+ is the strong threat. **58.Kf3 Rb4?** -2.81/34
[58...Ra3+ -7.03/36 59.Kg4 Ra8]
59.Kg2? -9.31/38
[59.Ng4+ -2.81/34 Kf5 60.Ne3+ Kxg5 61.Kg2]
59...Rb3? -3.01/36
[59...Rd4 -9.31/38 60.Kf3 Ke6]
60.Kh3? -9.21/37
[60.Ng4+ -3.01/36 Kf5 61.Kh3]
60...Rb7



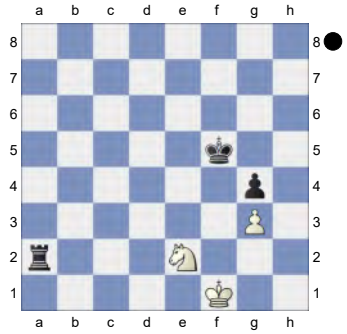
61.Kg4 Rb4+ 62.Kh3 Ra4? -2.80/33
[62...Rd4 -8.86/39 63.Ng4+ Ke4]
63.Kg2? -6.55/37
[63.Ng4+ -2.80/33 Kf5 64.Ne3+ Kxg5 65.Kg2]
63...Ke6 -2.77/39
[⌓63...Ke4 -6.55/37 64.Ng4 Ra2+ 65.Kh3 Kf5]
64.Kf3 Rb4 65.Kg2? -6.40/34
[65.Ng4 -2.87/33]
65...Rb5



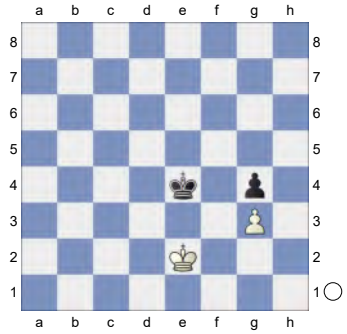
66.Kf3 -4.36/31
[⌓66.Ng4 -2.87/35]
66...Rxg5 67.Ng4 Ra5 68.Nf2 Kf5 69.Nh3 Ra3+ 70.Kg2 g5



71.Ng1? -#19/25
[71.Nf2-+ -2.65/24]
71...g4 Black mates. **72.Ne2 Ra2 73.Kf1**



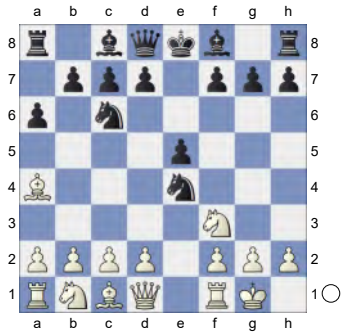
Rxe2! 74.Kxe2 Ke4



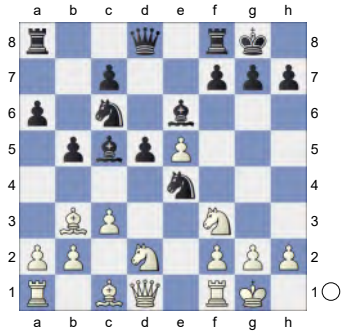
Weighted Error Value: White=0.68/ Black=0.52
0-1

99 **C82**
☐ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2759**
■ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **2726**
Aimchess US Rapid Prelim (6.2) 29.8.21
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

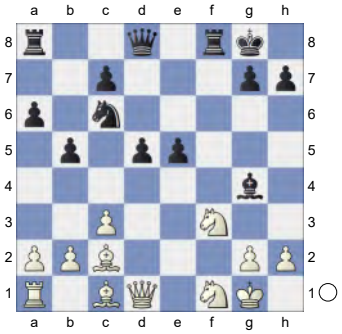


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0

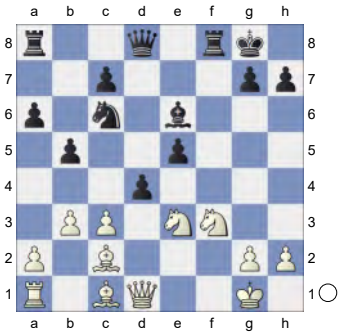


11.Bc2 Nxf2 12.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 13.Kxf2 White has an edge. **13...f6 14.Nf1 fxe5 15.Kg1 Bg4** 0.69/20
[⌓15...Qd7 0.33/17]

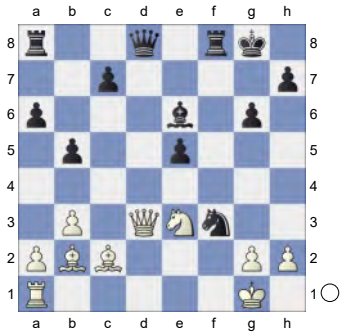
(Diagram)



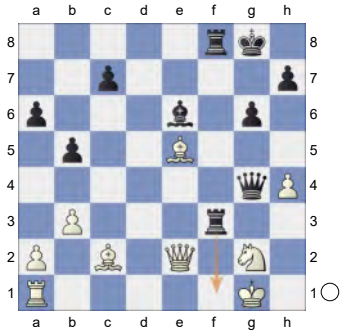
16.Ne3± White has compensation.
16...Be6 17.b3
[17.Bb3!?]
17...d4
[17...Kh8 18.Ba3 Rf4 19.Bc5 d4 20.cxd4 exd4 21.Qd3 Bg8 22.Nf5 Qd5 23.Ba3 Re8 24.Rd1 Rfe4 25.Ng3 Re3 26.Qd2 R3e6 27.Bb2 Rd8 28.Nxd4 Qc5 29.Ne4 Qe7 30.Qe3 Nxd4 31.Rxd4 Rxd4 32.Qxd4 Carlsen,M (2862)-Vachier Lagrave,M (2757) Wijk aan Zee NED 2015 [Glenn Flear] ½-½ (51)]
[17...a5 18.Bb2 Qe7 19.Qe1 e4 20.Nd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Rf7 22.Bd1 Raf8 23.Be2 Rf2 24.Nd1 e3 25.Nxe3 Bg4 26.Bxg4 Rxb2 27.Nxd5 Qg5 28.Bf3 Kh8 29.Qxa5 Rc2 30.Qe1 c5 31.h4 Qd8 32.Qe4 Kuybokarov,T (2584)-Matlakov,M (2674) Villa Marina, Douglas, Isle o 2023 [Harry Grieve] 1-0 (41)]



18.Qd3N
[18.cxd4 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 exd4 20.Bb2 c5 21.Qh5 h6 22.Qg6 Rf6 23.Qh7+ Kf7 24.Bd1 10. Ruy Lopez Open (4.Ba4 Nf6-Open 6...b5,9]
18...g6 19.cxd4 Nxd4 20.Bb2 -0.69/21
[20.Nxe5= -0.01/20 c5 21.Bb2 *(21.Nxg6 Bf5∓)*]
20...Nxf3+∓

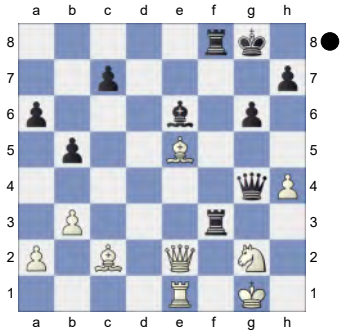


21.gxf3 Rxf3 22.Qe2
[Wrong is 22.Qe4? Qg5+ 23.Kh1 *(23.Ng2? Raf8-+)* 23...Raf8-+]
22...Qg5+ 23.Ng2 Raf8 24.h4!
[24.Qxe5 is a self mate. Qxg2+!! 25.Kxg2 Bh3+ 26.Kh1 Rf1+ 27.Rxf1 Rxf1#]
24...Qg3 -0.41/23
[24...Qh5∓ -0.80/23 White must now prevent ...Rf2! 25.Qxe5 Qxe5 26.Bxe5 Bd5]
25.Bxe5 This bishop pair is nice.
25...Qg4



Strongly threatening ...Rf1+! Really sharp! **26.Re1** -1.01/25
[26.Qe4!= -0.01/23]

(Diagram)



Prevents Rf1+. **26...Bd5→** -0.61/23 Black has some attack. &Nero is more active.

[Black should try 26...Rf1+!!∓ -1.01/25 27.Qxf1 Rxf1+ 28.Kxf1 Qf3+ 29.Kg1 Bd5]

27.Bd1? -7.70/21

[27.Qd2∓ -0.61/23 Qe6 28.Bd1]

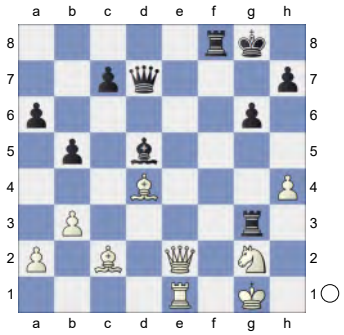
27...Qf5? -0.60/22

[27...Qh3-+ -7.70/21 And now ...Re3! would win. 28.Qc2 Rf2 29.Qxf2 Rxf2 30.Kxf2 Qxg2+ 31.Ke3 Qxa2]

28.Bd4 -7.31/22 Against Re3

[28.Bc2∓ -0.60/22 Qe6 29.Qd2]

28...Rg3 (-> ...Qh3) **29.Bc2 Qd7**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.81/ Black=0.67

0-1

100 **C83**

□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2759**

■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2770**

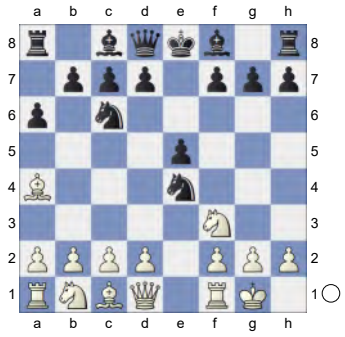
NIC Classic KO 2021 (1.12) 27.04.2021

[Kitty Kat]

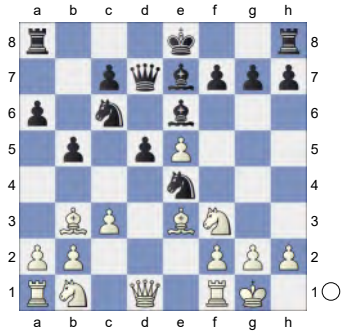
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7

C83: Partie espagnole (défense ouverte, variante principale)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Qd7

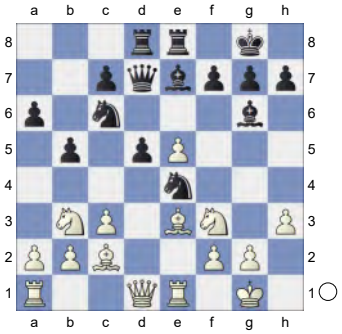


11.Re1 0-0 12.Nbd2 Rad8 13.Bc2 Bf5 14.h3

[14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qxd7 Rxd7 17.e6 fxe6 18.Nd2 Ne5 19.Nxe4 Nd3 20.Re2 Rf5 21.f3 *(21.g3 Kf7 22.a4 h6 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra6 Re5 25.f3 Red5 26.Kg2 Ne5 27.b3 b4 28.c4 Rd1 29.Bc5 Nd3 30.Bxe7 Rxe7 31.Rd2 Rxd2+ 32.Nxd2* ½-½ (32) Shirov,A (2726)-Mamedyarov,S (2660) Izmir 2004

LesEchecs [LesEchecs.com]) 21...Rfd5 22.a4 h6 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra6 Kf7 25.g3 Ne5 26.Kg2 b4 27.Bd4 Nc4 28.Rc6 Na5 Dominguez Perez,L (2751)-Kasimdzhanov,R (2706) Baku 2014 CBM 163 [Szabo, Krisztian] ½-½]

14...Rfe8 15.Nb3 Bg6



16.Nbd4N

[16.Rc1 Qc8 17.Bf4 Nb8 18.Nfd2 Nxd2 19.Qxd2 Bxc2 20.Rxc2 c5 21.e6 fxe6 22.Bxb8 Qxb8 23.Rxe6 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-Nbd2 Rd8 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 c5 18.Ne2 -0.66/17

[18.Nf3= -0.26/19]

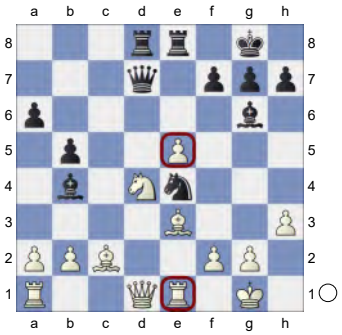
18...d4 -0.03/21

[18...Qe6∓ -0.66/17]

19.cxd4= cxd4 20.Nxd4

[20.Qxd4? Qc7! 21.Qxe4 Bxe4 22.Bxe4 Qxe5-+]

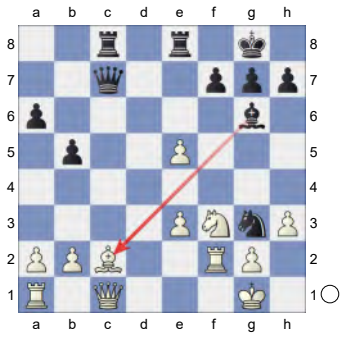
20...Bb4



21.Rf1 Bc5 22.Nf3 Bxe3 23.fxe3 -0.61/21

[23.Qxd7= -0.23/22 Bxf2+ 24.Rxf2 Rxd7 25.Re2]

23...Qc7 24.Qc1 Ng3 25.Rf2 Inhibits Ne2+. **25...Rc8**



26.Qe1 Bxc2 0.57/22

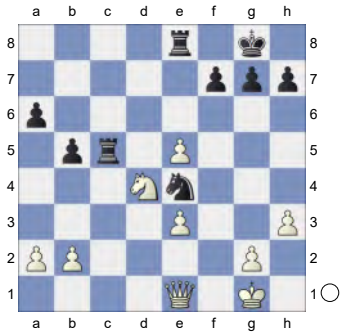
[26...Ne4= 0.16/17 27.Re2 Qe7]

27.Rc1± Ne4 0.81/22 **28.Rfxc2± Qxc2 29.Rxc2 Rxc2 30.Nd4** 0.25/22

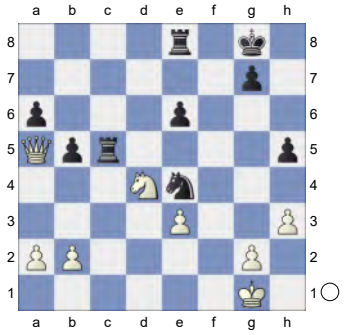
[30.Qd1± 0.82/21 Rcc8 31.Qd5]

30...Rc5

[30...Rxb2? 31.Qc1+-]



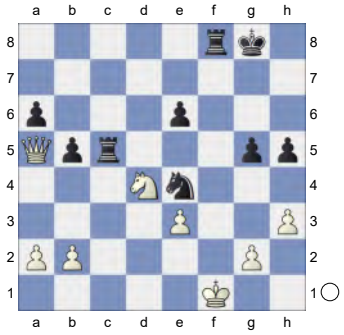
31.e6 fxe6 32.Qa5 h5



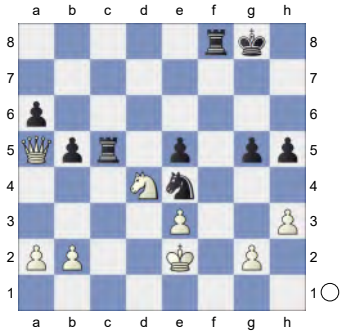
33.Nf3 0.01/22

[But not 33.Qxa6?! h4 34.Kh2 *(34.Nxb5 Rc1+ 35.Kh2 Ng3)* 34...Ng3=]

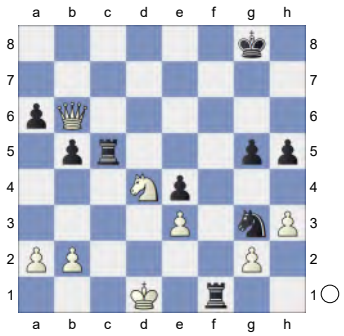
[White should play 33.Kh2!± 0.84/22]
33...g5 The position is equal. **34.Kf1**
[Much less strong is 34.Qxa6 Ng3±]
34...Rec8 35.Nd4! Rf8+



36.Ke2! Qb6 is the strong threat. **36...e5**

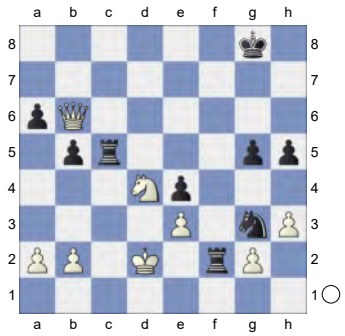


Strongly threatening ...Rf2+. **37.Qb6!** Hoping for Qg6+. **37...Ng3+**
[Don't do 37...exd4 38.Qg6+ Kh8 39.Qh6+ Kg8 40.Qg6+ Kh8 41.Qxe4±]
38.Kd3 e4+ 39.Kd2 Rf2+ 40.Kd1 Rf1+



41.Kd2 Rf2+ 42.Kd1 Dancing on a razor blade. **42...Rf1+ 43.Kd2 Rf2+**

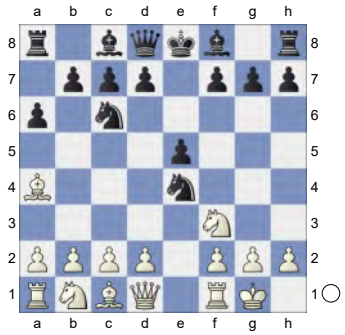
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)
½-½

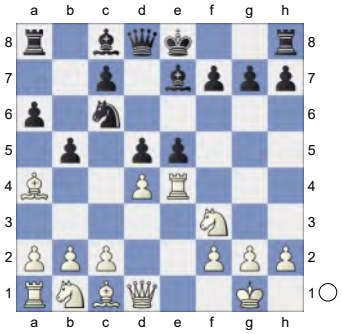
101 **C80**
□ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2729**
■ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2701**
3. Masters 2021 (5.3) 18.06.2021
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

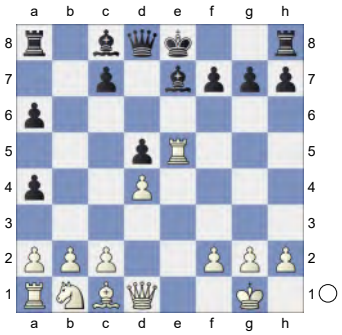


6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 Black must now prevent Bb3. **8...d5**

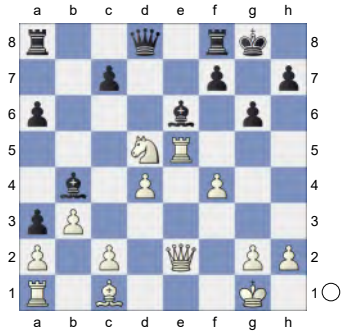
(Diagram)



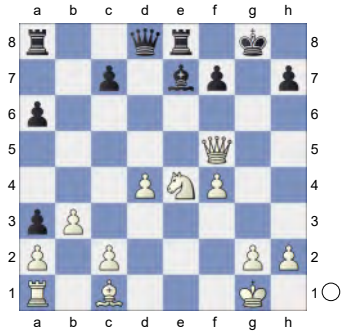
9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 Threatens to win with Bb3. White is slightly better.
10...bxa4



11.Qe2 Be6 12.f4 g6 Prevents f5.
13.Nc3 a3
[13...Bf6 14.Nxa4 Bxe5 15.fxe5 Qh4 16.Be3 0-0 17.Nc5 a5 18.Qd2 a4 19.Rf1 Rfb8 20.b4 axb3 21.cxb3 Ra3 22.Bg5 Rxa2 23.Qxa2 Qxg5 24.Qf2 Bf5 25.Ra1 h5 26.h4 Qg4 27.Kh2 Rb6 28.Ra7 Heasman,R (2531)-Posizione (2392) Cande 2023 CT-0832 [John Watson] 1-0 (42)]
14.b3! Bb4 15.Nxd5N
[15.Na4 0-0 16.Bd2 *(16.c3)* 16...Bd6 17.Nc5 Bf5 18.Bb4 Bxe5 19.fxe5 Qh4 20.c3 a5 21.Bxa3 Rfe8 22.Rf1 f6 23.e6 a4 24.bxa4 Qg4 25.Qe1 Be4 26.Qf2 Bf5 27.h3 Qh5 28.g4 Qxh3 29.gxf5 Kh8 Hodgson,J-10. ♗d3 a6 11. ♘f3 ♘h6_13 Marseille 2019 TD 93\05 [Engelen, Johan H. H. M] 1-0 (33) 30.fxg6 Rg8 31.Qxf6+ Rg7 32.Rf3 Qh5 33.e7 0-1 (33) Alekseenko,K (2554)-Wei,Y (2714) Moscow RUS 2016 [Glenn Flear]]
15...0-0

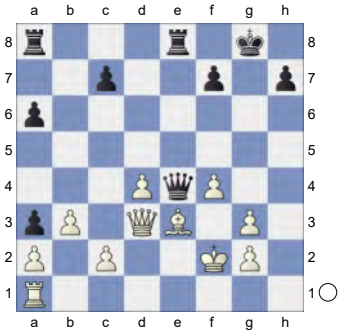


16.Qe4 Bd6 A strong pair of Bishops.
17.Nc3 -0.01/22
[17.Ne3± 0.41/19]
17...Bf5 18.Rxf5 gxf5 19.Qxf5 Re8! 20.Ne4⇄ White is not holding back
20...Be7

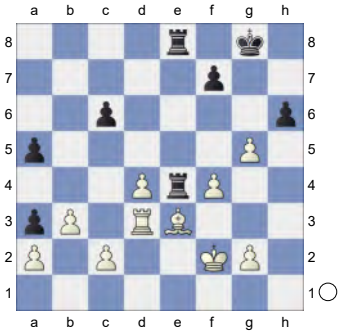


21.Be3 Qc8 0.67/20
[21...Bh4!= -0.01/20 22.d5 *(22.g3 Qc8=)* 22...Qc8 23.Nf6+ *(23.Qxc8 Raxc8 24.Bf2 Bxf2+ 25.Nxf2 Re2∓)* 23...Bxf6 24.Qxf6 Rxe3]
22.Ng3 -0.01/17 &Bianco is much more active.
[22.Qxc8± 0.67/20 Raxc8 23.Kf2]
22...Bh4 23.Qd3 Bxg3 24.hxg3 Qe6 25.Kf2 Qe4 1.13/22
[25...a5± 0.64/21 deserves consideration.]

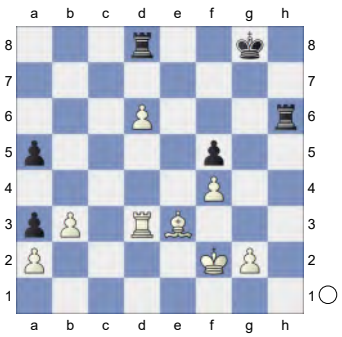
(Diagram)



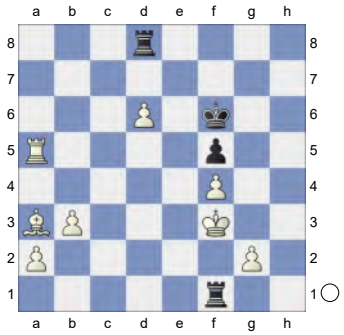
26.Rd1!± a5 27.g4 Prevents f5. **27...c6** 1.33/21
[27...Qg6± 0.70/21]
28.Qxe4 Rxe4 Endgame KRR-KRB **29.g5** 0.27/19
[29.Rd3± 1.46/21]
29...Rae8 1.31/23
[29...f5!= 0.27/19 remains equal.]
30.Rd3! h6



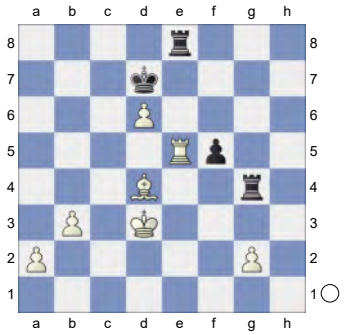
31.gxh6 f5 is the strong threat. **31...f5 32.c4 R4e6** 1.68/22
[32...Rd8± 1.01/23 was worth a try.]
33.d5+- cxd5 34.cxd5 Rxh6 35.d6 Rd8



36.Bc5 Kf7 1.88/23
[36...Rh1± 1.48/24 is a better defense.]
37.Rd5
[Much less strong is 37.Bxa3?! Rh4±]
37...Kf6 38.Bxa3 Rh4 39.Kf3
[Not 39.Rxa5 Rxf4+ 40.Ke3 Rg4=]
39...Rh1 40.Rxa5 Rf1+

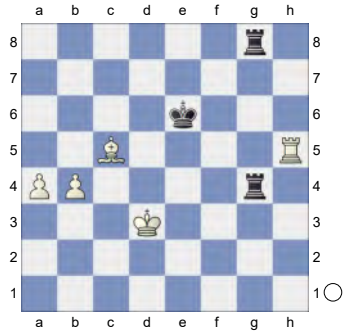


41.Ke3 Re8+ 42.Kd3? 0.70/21
[42.Re5!+- 2.31/21 Rxe5+ 43.fxe5+ Ke6 44.Bc5]
42...Rxf4± 43.Bc5 0.54/23
[43.Bb2+± 1.35/23 Ke6 44.Re5+ Kd7 45.Rxe8 Kxe8 46.Bd4]
43...Rg4? 2.77/20
[43...Rg8± 0.54/23]
44.Bd4+ Ke6 45.Re5+ Kd7

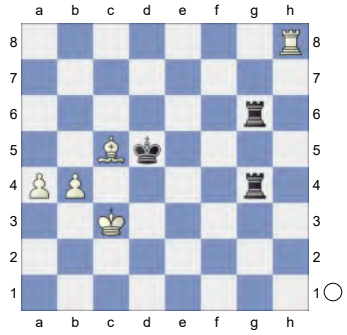


Hoping for ...Rg3+. **46.Rxf5** 0.41/21
[46.Rxe8!± 1.14/23 Kxe8 47.a4]
46...Kxd6 47.a4 Rxg2 48.b4 0.01/24
[48.Bf2± 0.49/20]
48...Rg4!= 49.Bc5+ Ke6 50.Rh5 aiming for a5. **50...Reg8** 0.61/21
[50...Rb8= 0.01/21]

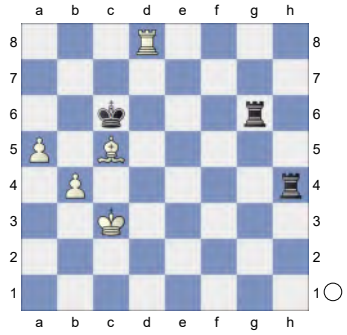
(Diagram)



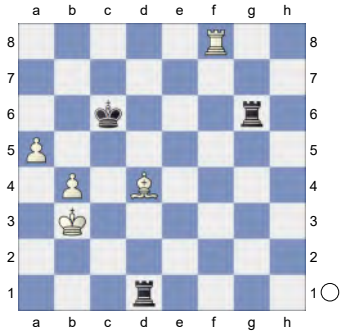
51.Kc3 0.01/21
[White should play 51.a5± 0.61/21]
51...R8g5 0.48/23
[51...Rg3+!= 0.01/21 52.Kc4 R3g4+ 53.Kb5 Rb8+ 54.Bb6 Rxb6+ 55.Kxb6 Rxb4+ 56.Ka5 Rg4]
52.Rh6+ Rg6 53.Rh8 Kd5



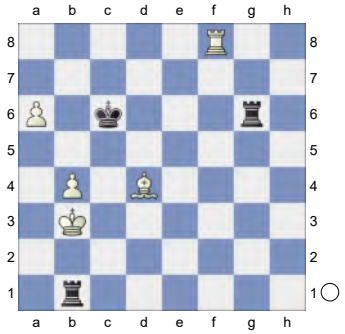
54.Rd8+! Kc6 55.a5 0.00/25
[55.Kb3± 0.81/21]
55...Rh4 0.68/25
[Better is 55...Kb5= 0.00/25]



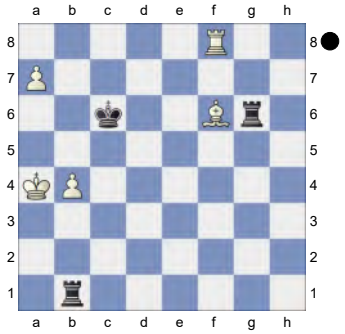
56.Kb3!± Rh1 57.Rc8+ Kb7 58.Rf8 Kc6 59.Bd4 Strongly threatening a6.
59...Rd1? 3.57/19
[59...Rg4± 0.90/20]



60.a6!+- Threatening mate with a7.
60...Rb1+
[60...Rxd4? 61.a7+-]



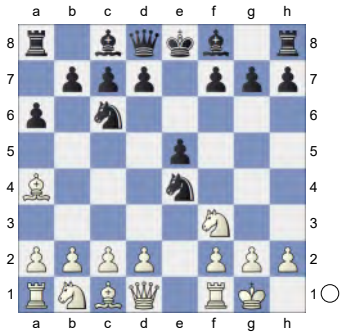
61.Ka4 Intending a7 and mate. **61...Kd5**
62.Bf6 Kc6? #9/20
[62...Ra1++- 3.84/23 63.Kb5 Ra2 64.Rd8+ Ke4]
63.a7



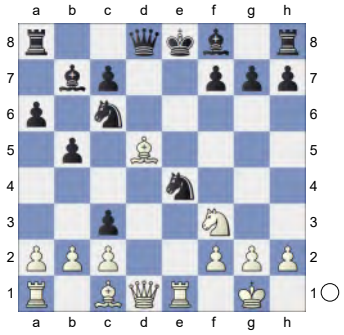
Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.36
1-0

102 **C80**
□ **Nikitosik Ai** **3014**
■ **Fataliibot** **2344**
Blitz 29.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

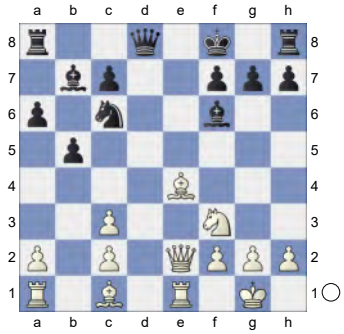
Blitz 3min+2sec
C78: Ruy Lopez: Archangelsk and Möller Defences
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



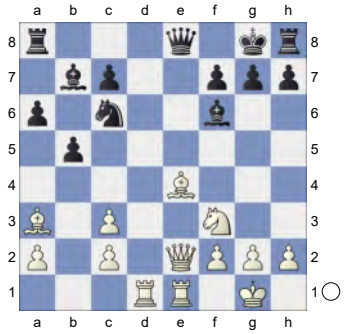
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 exd4 8.Re1 d5 9.Nc3! dxc3 1.94/20
[9...Be6± 0.81/19 10.Nxe4 dxe4]
10.Bxd5+- Bb7



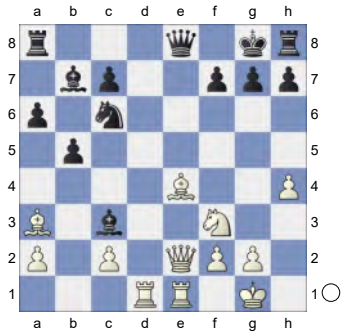
11.Bxe4 White is clearly better.
[Don't blunder 11.Rxe4+? Ne7 12.Bxf7+ Kxf7-+]
11...Be7 12.Qe2→ Black is in trouble.
[Inferior is 12.bxc3 Qxd1 13.Rxd1 0-0=]
12...Kf8 13.bxc3 Bf6N 2.35/19
[13...Na5 1.86/18 was necessary. 14.a4 c6]



14.Ba3+! Kg8 15.Rad1 Qe8

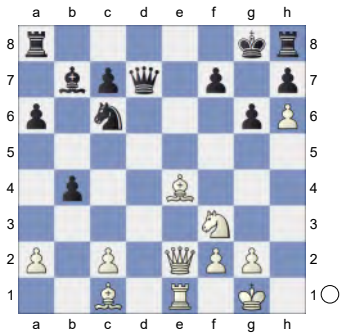


16.h4 g6 3.29/21
[16...Bxc3?

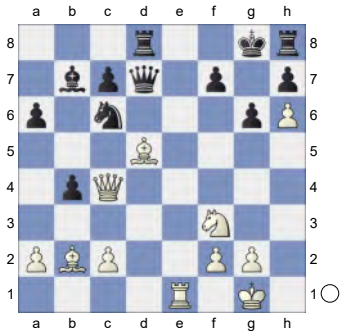


17.Bxh7+! Kxh7 18.Qd3+ Kg8 19.Rxe8+ Rxe8 20.Qxc3+-]
[16...h6 2.22/19 was called for. 17.Qd3 Qb8]
17.h5 Bxc3 18.h6 b4 19.Bc1 Bxe1 20.Rxe1 Qd7? 7.42/24
[20...Qe7 3.23/19 21.Bb2 Na5]

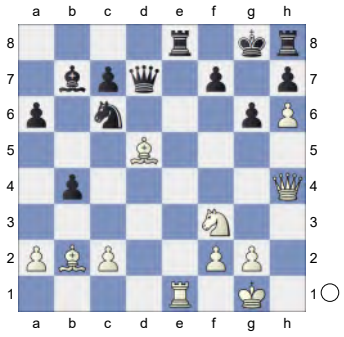
(Diagram)



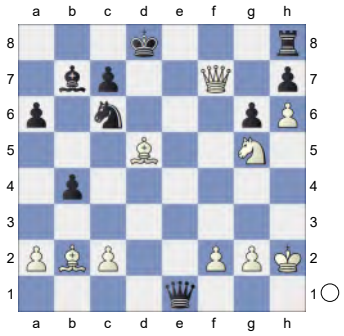
21.Bd5! Rf8 22.Qe4 Qf5 23.Qc4 Qd7 24.Bb2 Rd8



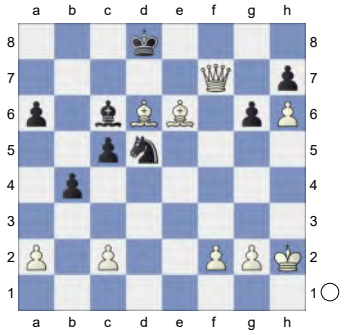
25.Qh4! Re8



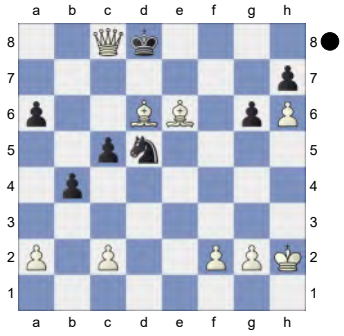
26.Rxe8+ Qxe8 27.Qf6 Kf8 28.Ng5 White threatens Ne6+ and mate. **28...Qe1+ 29.Kh2 Ke8 30.Qxf7+ Kd8**



31.Ne6+ Qxe6 32.Bxe6 This bishop pair is nice. **32...Ne7 33.Bxh8 c5 34.Be5 Bc6 35.Bd6** White mates. **35...Nd5**



36.Qa7 Bb7 37.Qb8+ Bc8 38.Qxc8#

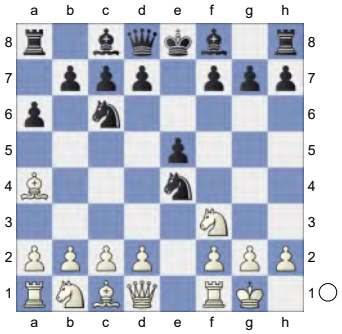


Black got outplayed after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.83
1-0

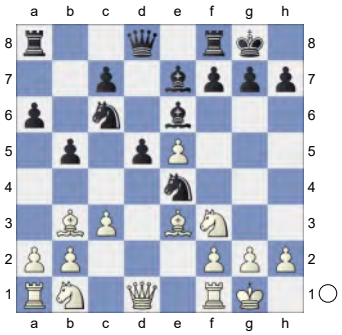
103 **C83**
☐ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2719**
■ **Tabatabaei,Mohammad Amin** **2623**
E Grand Prix 2 Pool B (6.2) 07.03.2022
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

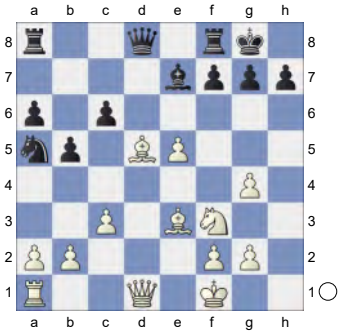
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 0-0

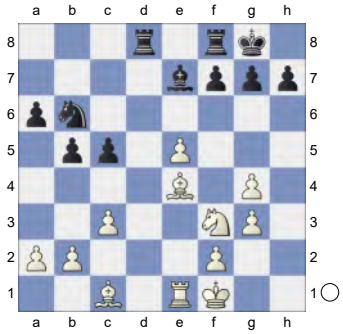


11.Nbd2 Bg4 12.h3 Nxd2! 13.hxg4 Nxf1 14.Kxf1 White has an edge.
14...Na5 15.Bxd5 c6

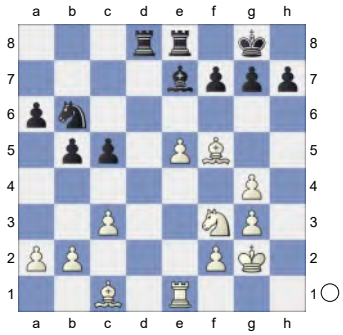


16.Be4 Black must now prevent Qxd8. A strong pair of Bishops. **16...Qxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Nc4 18.Bc1** 0.09/21
[18.Rd7± 0.42/22 Nxe3+ 19.fxe3]
18...Rad8!= 19.Re1 c5 20.g3 White has compensation. **20...Nb6** 0.28/20
[20...f6 -0.11/19 should be considered.]

(Diagram)

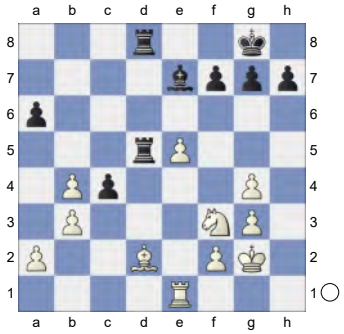


21.Kg2 Rd7 0.55/20
[21...Na4= 0.14/21]
22.Bf5 0.00/19
[Better is 22.Bc2± 0.55/20]
22...Rdd8 0.57/19
[Black should play 22...Rc7!= 0.00/19]
23.Be4 0.01/19
[23.e6± 0.57/19]
23...Rd7 24.Bc2 Re8 25.Bf5 aiming for e6.
[25.e6 fxe6 26.Rxe6 Rd6=]
25...Rdd8

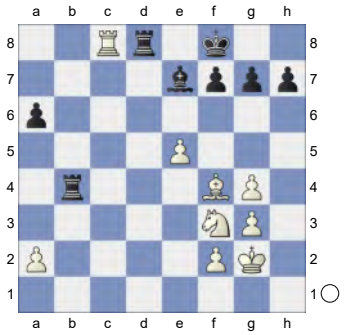


26.Be4 0.19/19
[26.e6± 0.56/20]
26...Nd5! 27.Bd2 c4 28.b3N b4 29.Bxd5 Rxd5 30.cxb4 -0.72/25
[30.bxc4= -0.23/24 is more appropriate. Rc5 31.cxb4 Rxc4 32.a3]
30...Red8

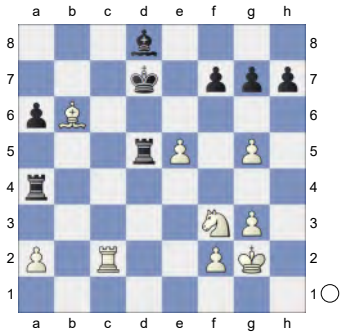
(Diagram)



31.Re2 Rc8 32.bxc4 Rxc4 33.Bf4 Rxb4 34.Rc2 Kf8 35.Rc8+ Rd8

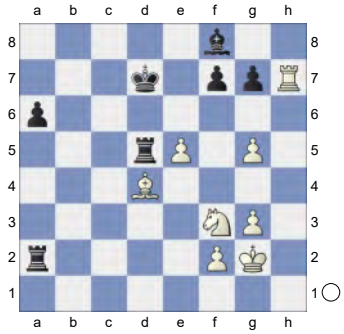


36.Rc7 Ra4 37.Rc2 Ke8 38.g5 Rd5 39.Be3 Kd7 40.Bb6 -1.44/21
[White should try 40.Nd2 -0.97/22]
40...Bd8∓

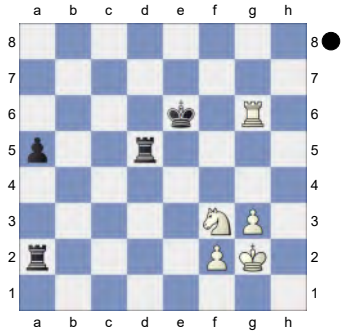


41.Be3 Rda5 -0.60/22
[41...Bc7∓ -1.23/19 42.Bf4 Bb6]
42.Rc1!∓ Rxa2 43.Rh1! Be7
[43...Bc7!? 44.Rxh7 Bxe5∓]
44.Rxh7 Bf8 45.Bd4 -0.81/21
[45.Kh3!= -0.07/21 remains equal.]
45...Rd5∓

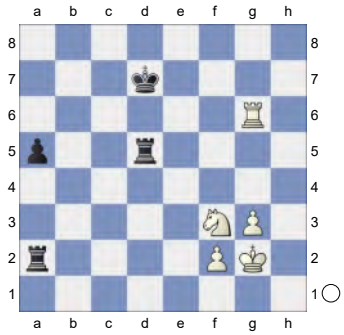
(Diagram)



Black keeps a firm grip on the game.
46.e6+ -1.94/24
[46.g6∓ -0.75/23]
46...Kxe6-+ And now ...g6 would win.
47.Bxg7 Bxg7 48.Rxg7 Endgame KRR-KRN **48...a5 49.g6 fxg6 50.Rxg6+**

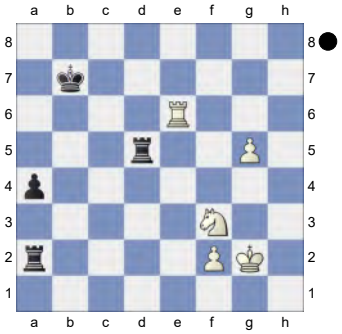


Kd7!

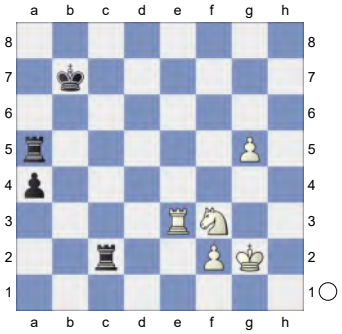


51.g4 a4 ...Ra5 is the strong threat.
52.Ra6 -2.61/22 Inhibits Ra5.
[⌓52.Rg7+ -1.96/20 Kc6 53.g5]
52...Kc7 53.g5 Kb7 54.Re6

(Diagram)

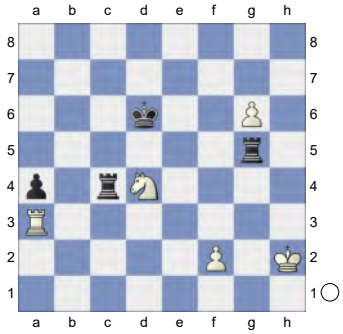


Rc2! 55.Re3 Ra5

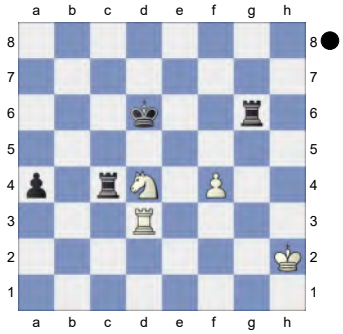


56.Ra3 Kc7 57.g6 Kd6 58.Nd4 -2.98/22
[Don't play 58.Rd3+ Ke7 59.Ra3 Kf6-+]
[58.Ne1 -2.08/19 is a better defense. Rc6 59.g7 *(59.Rd3+? Ke7-+)* 59...Rg5+ 60.Kf3 *(60.Rg3? Rxg3+ 61.Kxg3 Rc8-+)*]
58...Rg5+
[58...Rc4 59.g7 Rg5+ 60.Kh3∓]
59.Kh3 Rc1
[And not 59...Rxf2 60.Rxa4 Rf1 61.Kh4∓]
[Not 59...Rc4 60.g7∓]
60.Kh2 -4.75/20 Against Rh1+
[60.Nf3 -3.33/22 was called for. Rh1+ 61.Nh2]
60...Rc4

(Diagram)



61.f4 Rxg6 62.Rd3

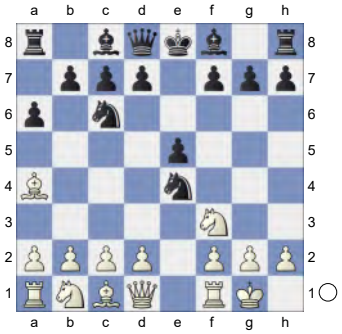


Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)
0-1

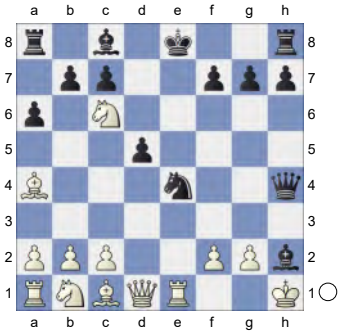
104 **C80**
□ **Nikitosik Ai** **3011**
■ **Fataliibot** **2341**
Blitz 31.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min+2sec
C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
ILN cxiv (25 Feb 1899) p. 273 'Chess in Russia. Game played by correspondence between two amateurs'. M could well be Aylmer Maude; another game appeared on 27 May. **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

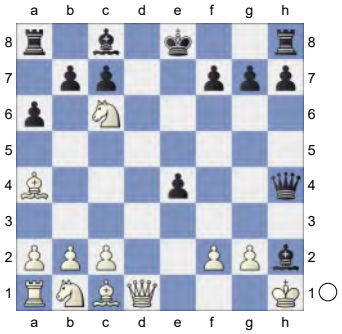
(Diagram)



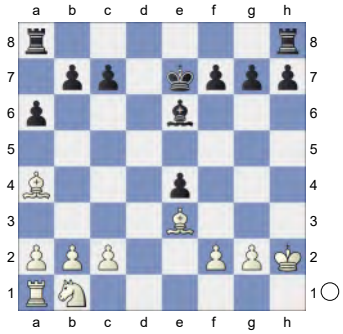
6.d4 exd4 7.Re1 d5 8.Nxd4 Bd6 9.Nxc6 Bxh2+ 10.Kh1
[Don't play 10.Kxh2 Qh4+ 11.Kg1 Qxf2+ 12.Kh2 *(12.Kh1 Qh4+ 13.Kg1 Qf2+ 14.Kh2 Qh4+ 15.Kg1 Qf2+=)* 12...Qh4+ 13.Kg1 Qf2+ 14.Kh2 *(14.Kh1 Qh4+ 15.Kg1 Qf2+=)* 14...Qh4+ 15.Kg1 Qf2+=]
10...Qh4



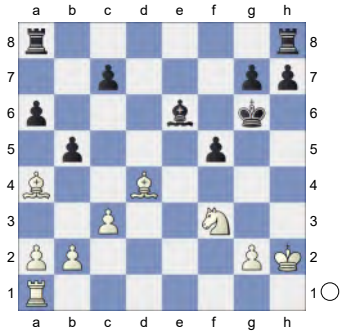
11.Rxe4+ dxe4



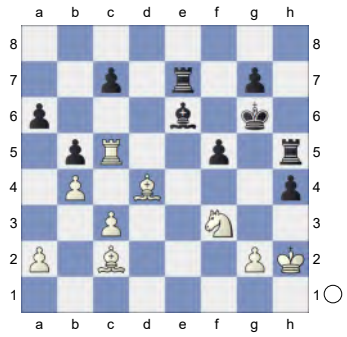
12.Qd8+! Qxd8 White is better.
13.Nxd8+ Kxd8 14.Kxh2 Be6 15.Be3
White has strong compensation.
15...Ke7 1.25/19
[⌓15...f5 0.91/19 16.Nc3 Ke7 17.Bb3 Kf7 18.g4 g6 19.g5 Rad8 20.Ne2 Rd7 21.c4 b5 22.Rc1 Rhd8 23.Nf4 Bxc4 24.Bxc4+ bxc4 25.Rxc4 Rb8 26.b3 Rb7 27.Ne2 Ke8 28.Nc3 Kd8 29.Kg2 Rb8 30.Bf4 Kc8 Perez Berenguer,V (2500)-Quintiliano Pinto,R (2495) ChessPub Guide 1996 Telechess CBM 89 [Melts, CCYB 11\98] 1-0 (34)]



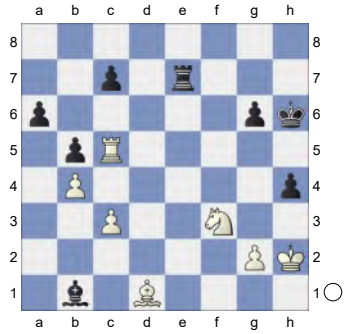
16.c3N
[16.Bc5+ Kf6 17.Nc3 Kg6 18.Nxe4 f5 19.Nc3 b5 20.Re1 Kf7 21.Bb3 Rhe8 22.Nd5 Bxd5 23.Bxd5+ Kg6 24.Be7 Rab8 25.Re6+ Kf7 26.Re3+ Kg6 27.Rg3+ Kh6 28.Bg5+ Kg6 29.Bd8+ Kh6 30.Bxc7 g5 Legrain-Luckcock,S corr 1925 1-0 (32)]
16...f5 17.Nd2 Kf6 2.13/19
[17...Kf7± 1.26/17]
18.f3+- exf3 19.Bd4+ Kg6 20.Nxf3
[Resist 20.gxf3?! Rhg8±]
20...b5 2.93/20
[⌓20...Rad8 1.95/18 21.Re1 Bxa2]



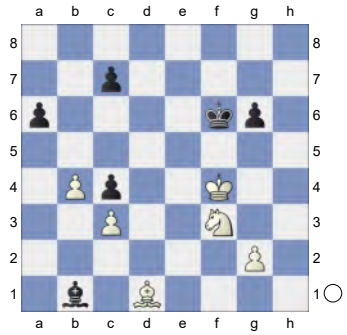
21.Bc2 h5 22.Re1 Rae8 23.Re5 Against Bd5 **23...h4 24.Rc5 Re7 25.b4 Rh5**



26.Bd1 A strong pair of Bishops. **26...Rh6 27.Be3 Bxa2 28.Bxh6 Kxh6 29.Rxf5 g6 30.Rc5 Bb1**

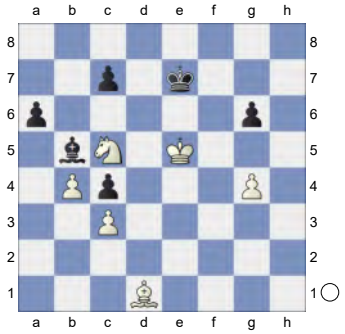


31.Nxh4 Re4 32.Nf3 Rc4 33.Rxc4 bxc4 34.Kg3 Kg7 35.Kf4 Kf6

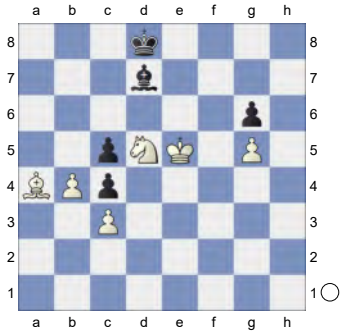


36.Ng5 Bf5 37.Ne4+ Ke7 38.g4 Bd7 39.Nc5 Bc6 40.Ke5 Bb5

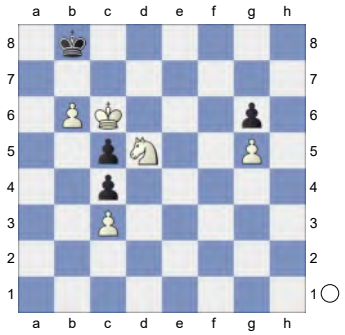
(Diagram)



41.g5 Be8 42.Ba4 White wants to mate with Bxe8. **42...c6 43.Nxa6** White mates. **43...Bd7 44.Nc7 c5 45.Nd5+ Kd8**

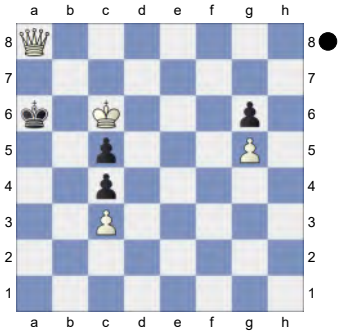


46.Bxd7 Kxd7 KN-K3P **47.b5 Kc8 48.Kd6 Kb8 49.Kc6 Kc8 50.b6 Kb8**



51.Nc7 Kc8 52.b7+ Kb8 53.Na6+ Ka7 54.b8Q+ Kxa6 55.Qa8#

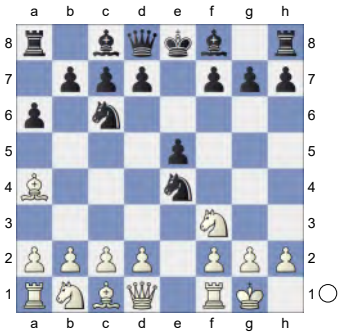
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.35
1-0

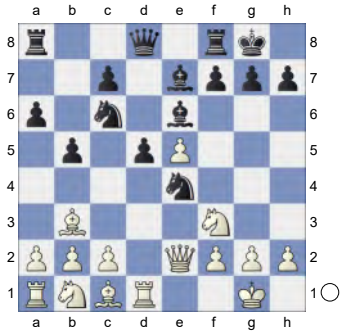
105 **C81**
☐ **BabaRamdev** **2785**
■ **Ogrilla** **2809**
Blitz 12.11.2020
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 3min
C81: Open Ruy Lopez: Keres Variation (9 Qe2)
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

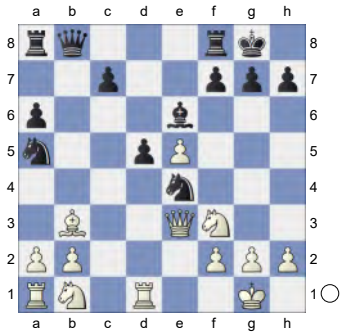


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Qe2 Be7 10.Rd1 0-0

(Diagram)



11.c4 bxc4 12.Bxc4 Bc5 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 Qb8 15.Bb3 Na5

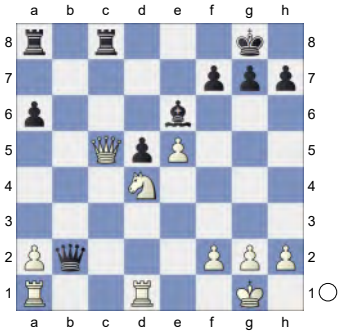


16.Nbd2 Nxb3
[16...Qa7 17.Qxa7 *(17.Nxe4 Qxe3 18.fxe3 Nxb3 19.axb3 dxe4 20.Nd4 Rfb8 21.Rdc1 Bxb3 22.Rxc7 Be6 23.Rd1 Rb6 24.b4 h6 25.Nc6 Re8 26.Kf2 Kh7* Ruy Lopez Open Variation-15.Bb3 Na5 16.Nbd2 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]*)* 17...Rxa7 18.Rac1 c5 19.Nxe4 Nxb3 20.axb3 dxe4 21.Nd2 e3 22.fxe3 Rb7 23.Ne4 Rxb3 24.Nxc5 Rxe3 25.Nxa6 Rxe5 26.b4 h5 27.Rc5 Rxc5 28.Nxc5 Bc4 29.Rd4 Bb5 30.Rd5 Rb8 31.Rxh5 Goloshchapov, A (2523)-Atalik,S (2581) Nova Gorica 2003 EXT 2004 [Atalik,Suat] ½-½ (31)]
17.Nxb3 c5N Prevents Nfd4.
[17...a5 18.a4 Qb6 19.Qxb6 cxb6 20.Nbd4 Rac8 21.Rac1 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Rc8 23.Rxc8+ Bxc8 24.Kf1 Ba6+ 25.Ke1 Nc5 26.b3 Nd3+ 27.Kd2 Nxf2 28.Nc6 Kf8 29.Nb8

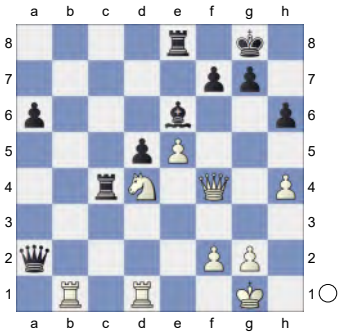
Ne4+ 30.Ke3 Bc8 31.Kd4 Be6 32.Na6 Skalsky,A (2180)-Fargac,M (2299) Czech Republic 2022 0-1 (49) g5 33.h3 h5 34.Nc7 g4 35.hxg4 hxg4 36.Ne1 Nc5 37.Kc3 d4+ 38.Kxd4 Bxb3 39.Nd5 Nxa4 40.Nf6 Be6 41.Nd3 b5 42.Nc1 Nb6 43.Kc5 b4 44.Ne4 b3 45.Nxb3 Nd7+ 46.Kd6 Bxb3 47.Kxd7 Zambrano,K (2180)-Gaertig,L (2299) USSR 39/(207) 2022 CBM 053 ext [John Watson] 0-1 (49)]

18.Nxc5 Nxc5 The position is equal.

19.Qxc5 Qxb2 20.Nd4 Rfc8



21.Qe7 Re8 22.Qg5 h6 23.Qf4 Rac8→ Black mounts an attack. **24.h4 Rc4 25.Rab1 Qxa2**

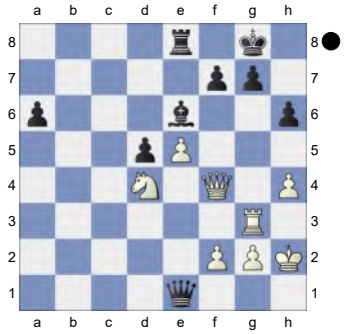


26.Rb7 -1.25/20
[26.Ra1∓ -0.56/20 Qb3 27.Qxf7+ Bxf7 28.Nxb3]

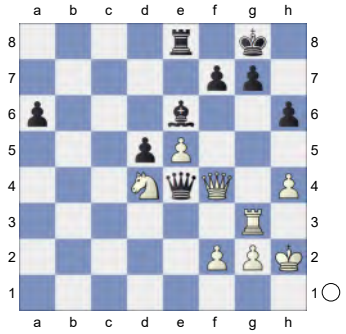
26...Qa4∓ 27.Rd3 Rb4 -0.19/22
[Black should try 27...a5∓ -1.20/20 Hoping for ...Qa1+. 28.Kh2 Qa1]

28.Rxb4= Qxb4 29.Rg3 Qe1+ -0.77/5
[29...Qb1+= -0.30/23 should be considered. 30.Kh2 Qe4 31.Qxe4 dxe4]

30.Kh2∓



aiming for Qf6. **30...Qe4**

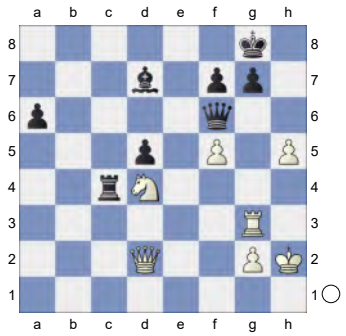


31.Qxh6 -0.90/24
[31.Qxe4∓ -0.47/22 dxe4 32.Rc3]

31...Qxe5 32.Qd2 Rc8 33.f4 -1.18/22
[33.Nf3∓ -0.68/20 Qf6 34.Qb4]

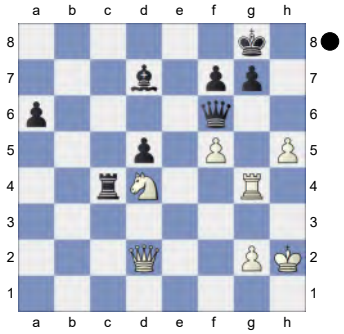
33...Qf6 34.f5 Bd7
[Don't do 34...Qxh4+ 35.Rh3 Qe4 36.fxe6 fxe6 37.Qe3±]

35.h5 Rc4

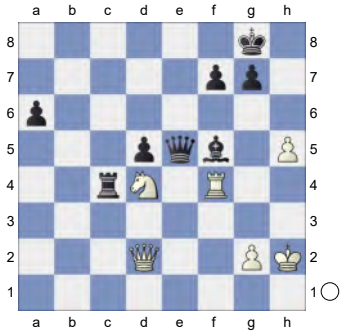


36.Rg4 -6.47/21
[36.Nf3∓ -1.16/21]

(Diagram)



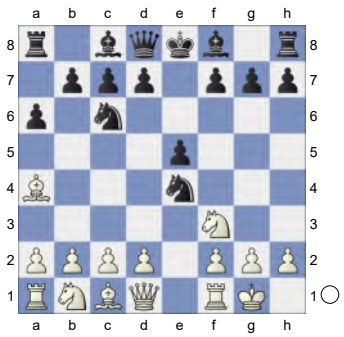
36...Bxf5-+ 37.Rf4 Qe5



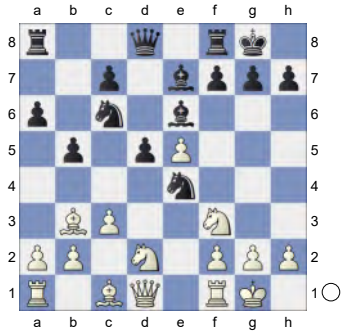
Weighted Error Value: White=0.49/ Black=0.13 (very precise)
0-1

106 **C83**
☐ **Giri,Anish** **2776**
■ **Anton Guijarro,David** **2673**
Magnus Carlsen Inv Prelim (6.1) 14.3.21
[Kitty Kat]

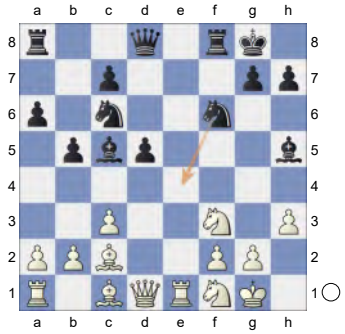
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



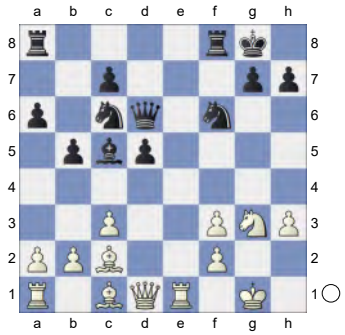
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 0-0



11.Bc2 f5 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.Re1 Bg4 14.h3 Bh5 15.Nf1 White has an edge.
15...Bc5

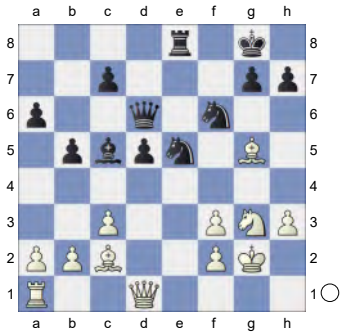


16.Ng3 Inhibits Ne4. **16...Bxf3 17.gxf3 Qd6**

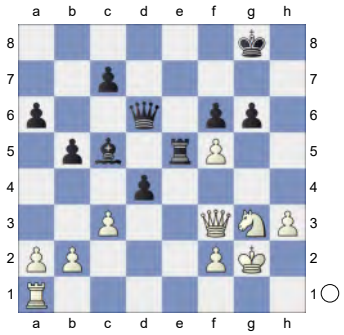


And now ...Qxg3+ would win. **18.Kg2 Rae8 19.Rxe8 Rxe8** 0.60/19
[19...Nxe8= 0.19/20 should be considered. 20.Bg5 Nf6]
20.Bg5± Threatens to win with Bxf6.
20...Ne5N 1.31/20
[20...Rf8± 0.37/18]
[20...Ne7 21.Qd2 c6 22.h4 Bb6 23.Rg1 Bc7 24.Kf1 Ng6 25.h5 Nxh5

26.Nxh5 Qh2 27.Ng3 Qh3+ 28.Rg2 Bf4 29.Qd4 Bxg5 30.Bf5 Qh4 31.Bd7 Qxd4 32.cxd4 Rd8 33.Bxc6 Nf4 34.Rg1 Rc8 35.Ne2 Asadli,V (2575)-Kusa,J (2360) Mayrhofen 2022 ½-½ (60)]

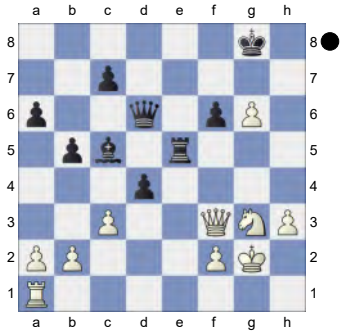


21.Bxf6± gxf6 22.f4 Ng6 23.Bxg6 hxg6 24.f5 d4
[24...Bxf2? 25.Kxf2 Qf4+ 26.Kg2+-]
25.Qf3 0.80/19 Prevents Qd5.
[⌓25.cxd4 1.56/21 Qd5+ 26.Qf3 Qxf3+ 27.Kxf3 Bxd4 28.fxg6]
25...Re5 2.67/21
[25...g5± 0.80/19]

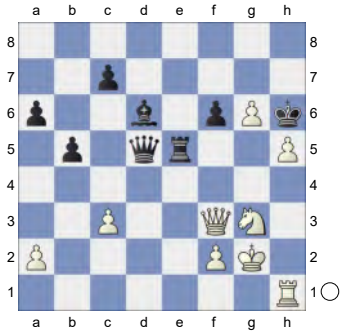


26.fxg6

(Diagram)

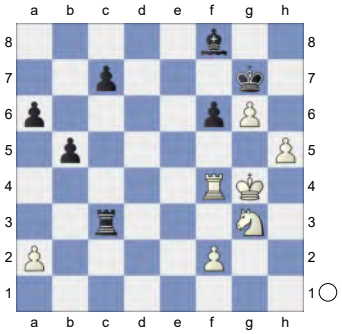


cxd4 is the strong threat. **26...Qd5**
27.h4 1.40/20
[White should play 27.cxd4+- 2.48/22 Bxd4 28.Rd1]
27...Kg7? 3.31/22 Loses the game.
[27...d3± 1.40/20]
28.h5 1.69/22
[⌓28.cxd4 3.31/22 Qxf3+ 29.Kxf3 Bxd4 30.Rd1]
28...dxc3 2.99/23
[28...d3 1.69/22 keeps fighting. 29.b3 d2 30.Qxd5 Rxd5]
29.bxc3+- Bd6 30.Rh1 Kh6

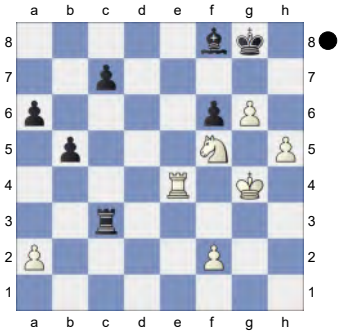


31.Rh4 Dancing on a razor blade.
31...Qxf3+ 32.Kxf3 KRB-KRN **32...Rc5**
33.Rg4 Threatening mate with g7.
33...Bf8 7.46/23
[33...Rxc3+ 3.88/24 34.Ke4 Bf8 35.Nf5+ Kxh5]
34.Rf4 White is clearly winning.
34...Rxc3+ 35.Kg4 Kg7

(Diagram)



36.Nf5+ Kg8 37.Re4

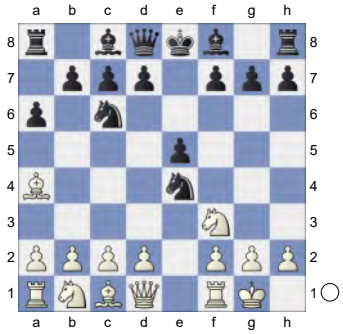


Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.59
1-0

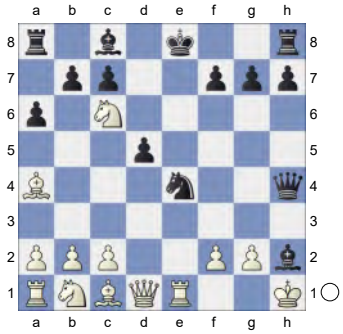
107 **C80**
☐ **Weiawaga** **2784**
■ **Fataliibot** **2444**
Rapid 31.10.2024
[Kitty Kat]

Blitz 10min+1sec
C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

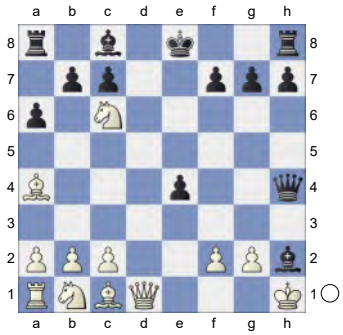
(Diagram)



6.d4 exd4 7.Re1 d5 8.Nxd4 Bd6 9.Nxc6 Bxh2+ 10.Kh1
[Reject 10.Kxh2?! Qh4+ 11.Kg1 Qxf2+ 12.Kh1 Qh4+ 13.Kg1 Qf2+ 14.Kh1 Qh4+ 15.Kg1 Qf2+=]
10...Qh4



11.Rxe4+ dxe4

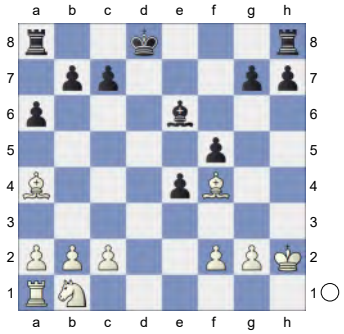


12.Qd8+! Qxd8 White is better.
13.Nxd8+ Kxd8 14.Kxh2 Be6 15.Bf4
White has strong compensation.
[15.c3 f5 16.Be3 g6 17.Nd2 Kc8 18.f3 b5 19.Bd1 Re8 20.fxe4 fxe4 21.Bc2 Bd5 22.b3 Kb7 23.c4 Bc6 24.b4 bxc4 25.Nxc4 Bd5 26.Na5+ Kc8 27.Ba4 Re6 28.Rf1 1-0 (28) Brugel,H (2511)-Vargas Rodriguez,W

(2367) Reggio Emilia 2013 Rubinstein MBM [Zsolt Karacsony]]

15...f5

[15...c5 16.c3 Ke7 17.Nd2 f5 18.f3 b5 19.Bc2 exf3 20.Nxf3 Rhe8 21.Re1 Kf8 22.Bd6+ Kg8 23.Bxc5 Bxa2 24.Ne5 g6 25.Bd4 a5 26.Ra1 Be6 27.Bd3 b4 28.Bb5 Rf8 29.Bc6 bxc3 30.Bxc3 Arizmendi Martinez,J (2521)-Milov,V (2595) Biel 2003 CBM 095 Extra [Arizmendi Martinez,Julen Luis] 1-0 (50)]



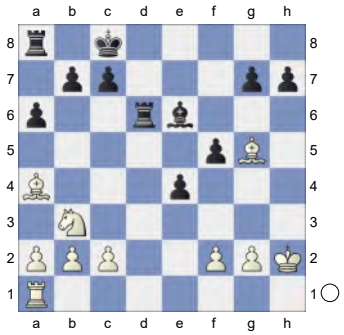
16.Nd2

[Don't play 16.Nc3?! c5=]

16...Kc8 17.Nb3N Black must now prevent Nc5.

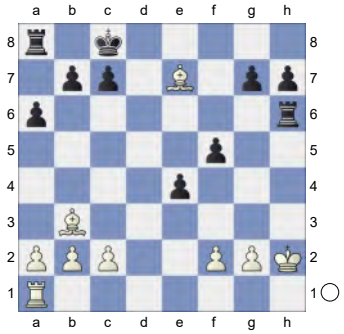
[17.c3 h6 18.g4 g5 19.Be3 f4 20.Bd4 Rd8 21.Nxe4 Bxg4 The fun open spanish vs. 6...-Line 64: The endgame - 15.Bf4]

17...Rd8 18.Bg5 Rd6

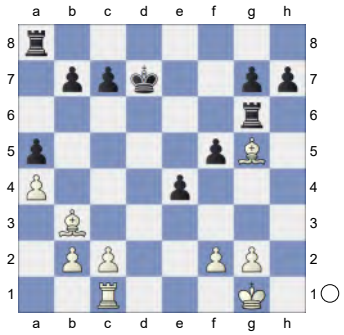


19.Be7! Bxb3 20.Bxb3 Rh6+

(Diagram)



21.Kg1 Kd7 22.Bg5 Rg6 23.Rd1+ Rd6 24.Rc1 a5 25.a4 Rg6



26.Bd2 0.89/18

[⌓26.Rd1+ 1.31/19 Rd6 27.Re1]

26...Kc6 1.44/19

[⌓26...b6 0.89/18]

27.Bf7 Rf6 28.Bc4 Kc5 1.58/21

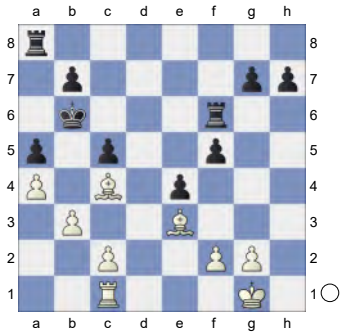
[⌓28...b6 1.24/19]

29.b3 Threatens to win with Be3+.

29...Kb6 2.57/21

[29...Rd6± 1.52/20 keeps fighting. 30.Bf4 Rad8]

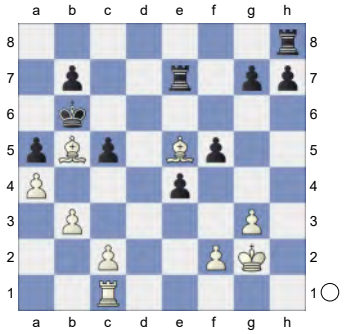
30.Be3+ c5



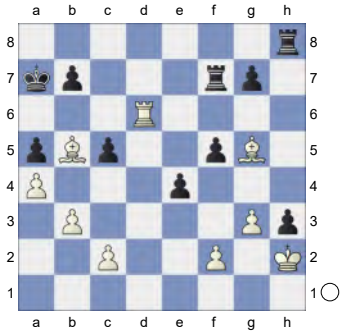
31.Bf4 Strongly threatening Rd1.

31...Rff8 32.g3 Rad8 33.Kg2 Rh8 34.Be5 Rd7 35.Bb5 A strong pair of

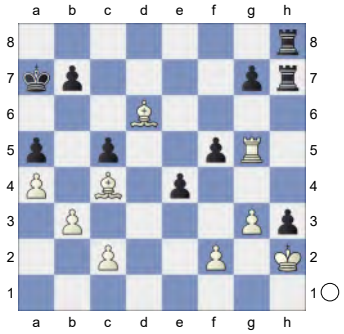
Bishops. **35...Re7**



36.Bf4 h5 4.32/21
[36...Rf7 2.75/20 might work better. 37.Rd1 g6]
37.Rd1+- h4 38.Rd6+ Ka7 39.Bg5 h3+ 40.Kh2 Rf7

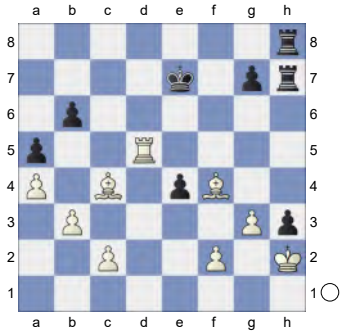


41.Bc4 Rc7 42.Bf4 Rcc8 43.Rg6 Rh7 44.Rg5 Rf8 45.Bd6 Deflection
45...Rfh8

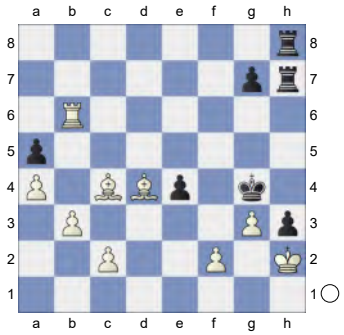


46.Bxc5+ b6 47.Be3 Kb7 48.Rxf5 Kc7 49.Bf4+ Kd8 50.Rd5+ Ke7

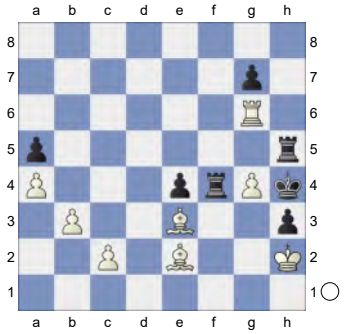
(Diagram)



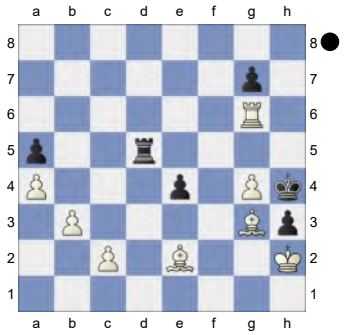
51.Bg5+ Ke6 52.Be3 Kf6 53.Bd4+ Kg6 54.Rd6+ Kf5 55.Rxb6 Kg4



56.Be2+ Kg5 57.g4 White mates.
57...Rf8 58.Be3+ Kh4 59.Rg6 Rh5 60.f4 Rxf4



61.Bxf4 Rd5 62.Bg3#

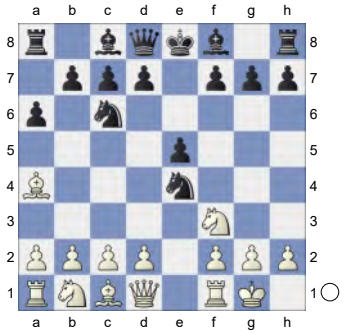


Weighted Error Value: White=0.05

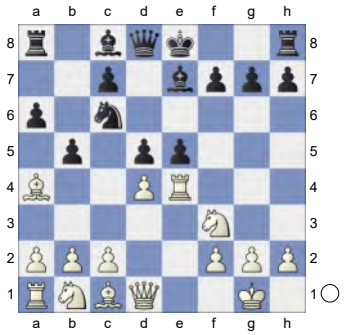
(flawless) /Black=0.38
1-0

108 **C80**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2835**
■ **Fressinet,Laurent** **2635**
ch-Schachbundesliga 2020 (5.1) 19.9.20
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

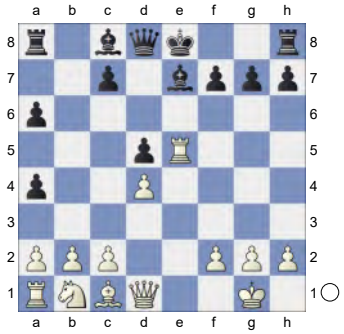


6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 d5

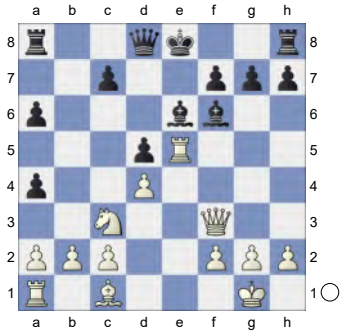


9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 Threatens to win with Bb3. White is slightly better.
10...bxa4

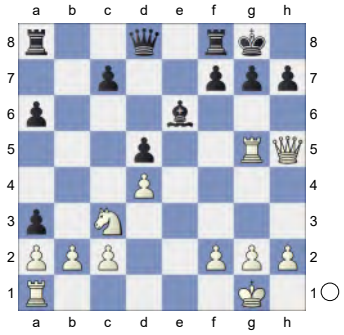
(Diagram)



11.Qf3 0.28/21
[11.Nc3± 0.65/19 feels stronger. c6 12.Nxa4]
11...Be6= 12.Nc3 Bf6

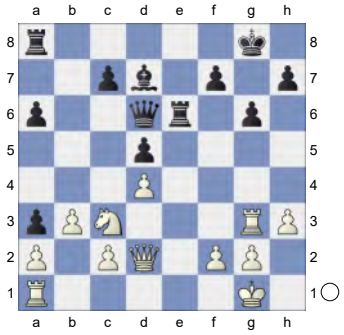


13.Bg5! Bxg5 14.Qh5 aiming for Rxe6+. **14...0-0 15.Rxg5**
[15.Qxg5? f6! 16.Qe3 fxe5-+]
15...a3N
[15...Qd6 16.a3 Qb6 17.Qd1 h6 18.Rg3 Qxb2 19.Nxa4 Qb5 20.Nc5 Bf5 The Be7 Spanish-Line 93: 11. Qf3!? Be6!? (alt,s]

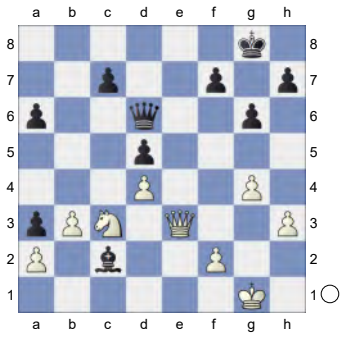


16.b3 g6 17.Rg3 -0.28/19
[17.Qh6± 0.41/18]
17...Qd6 0.38/18

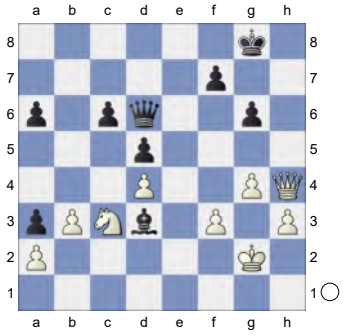
[Black should try 17...Qd7!= -0.28/19]
18.Qe2 0.04/20
[18.Qg5± 0.38/18]
18...Rfe8 19.Qd2 Bd7 20.h3 Re6



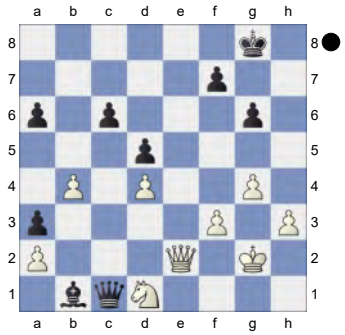
21.Re1 Rxe1+ 22.Qxe1 Re8 0.09/21
[22...h5! -0.30/19 was preferrable.]
23.Re3 Rxe3 24.Qxe3 Bf5 25.g4 Bxc2



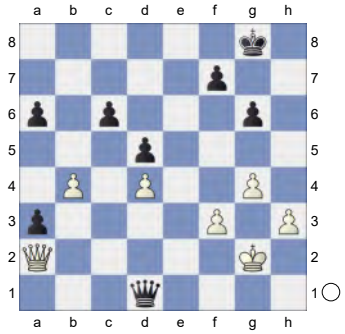
26.Kg2 h5 27.Qd2 Be4+ 28.f3 h4 Hoping for ...Qg3+. **29.Qf2** Prevents Qg3+. **29...Bd3** Strongly threatening ... g5. **30.Qxh4 c6**



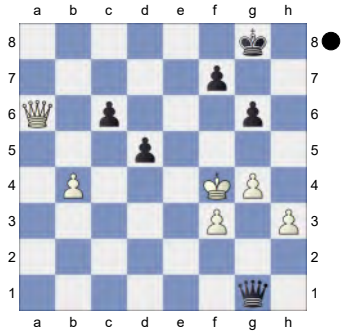
White must now prevent ...Qb4. **31.Qf2 Qf4** Against Qe3 **32.Nd1** -1.35/22
[32.Na4= -0.30/23]
32...Bb1 -0.30/23
[32...c5∓ -1.35/22 33.dxc5 Qc1]
33.b4 -1.05/24
[33.Nc3= -0.30/23 keeps the balance. Bd3 34.Na4]
33...Qc1 34.Qe2



Bxa2 -0.33/25 **35.Qxa2 Qxd1**

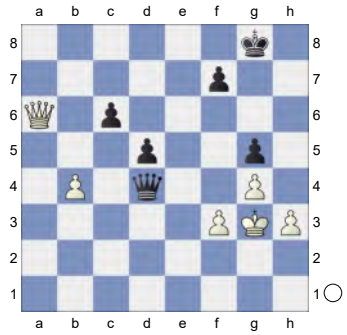


36.Qxa3∓ Endgame KQ-KQ **36...Qd2+ 37.Kg3 Qxd4 38.Qxa6 Qg1+**
[38...Qxb4?! 39.Qxc6 Qe1+ 40.Kg2=]
39.Kf4

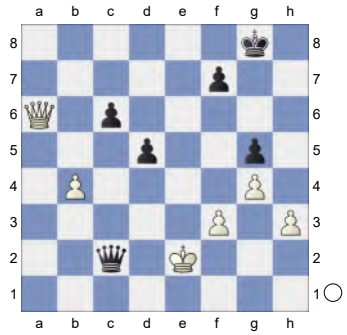


Qd4+ -0.01/26
[Better is 39...Qc1+!∓ -1.10/23 40.Kg3 Qe1+ 41.Kg2 Qd2+ 42.Kg3 Qe1+ 43.Kg2 Qd2+ 44.Kg3 Qe1+]
40.Kg3= g5 -0.11/25

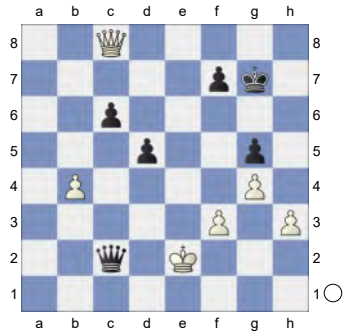
[Of course not 40...Qxb4 41.Qxc6 Qe1+ 42.Kg2=]
[40...Qe5+∓ -0.66/21 41.Kf2 Qd4+ 42.Kg3]



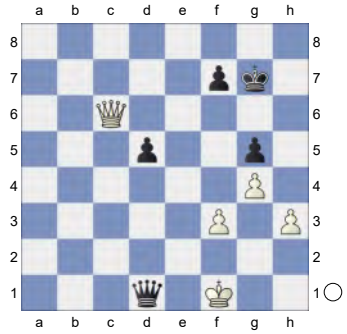
41.Kg2 Qd2+ 42.Kf1 Qc1+
[42...Qc3!? 43.Qc8+ Kg7=]
43.Ke2 Qc2+ 44.Ke3 Qc3+ 45.Ke2 Qc2+ 0.01/23
[45...d4∓ -0.35/25 deserves consideration. 46.Qc8+ Kg7]



46.Ke3 Qc3+ 47.Ke2! Kg7 And now ... d4 would win. **48.Qc8** -0.51/26
[48.Qb7= -0.15/23]
48...Qc2+∓
[Don't play 48...Qxb4 49.Qxc6 Qd4 50.Qc7=]
49.Ke3! Qc3+ 0.01/26
[49...Qc1+∓ -0.41/26 50.Ke2 Qc4+ 51.Kf2 Qd4+ 52.Ke2 Qe5+ 53.Kd3 Qf6]
50.Ke2= Qc2+ 0.01/23
[But not 50...Qxb4 51.Qxc6 Qd4 52.Qc7=]
[50...d4!∓ -0.63/25 51.Qf5 Qe3+ 52.Kd1 Qb3+ 53.Kc1 Qc4+ 54.Kd1 f6]



51.Ke3! Qb3+ 52.Ke2 Qc4+ 53.Kf2 Qxb4 54.Qxc6 Qd2+ 55.Kf1 Qd1+

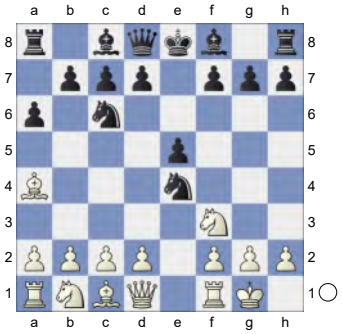


Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.21 (precise)
½-½

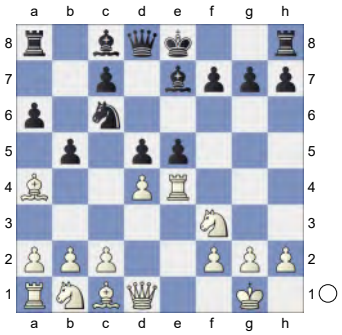
109 **C80**
□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2780**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2872**
11. Classic 2019 (1.5) 04.12.2019
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

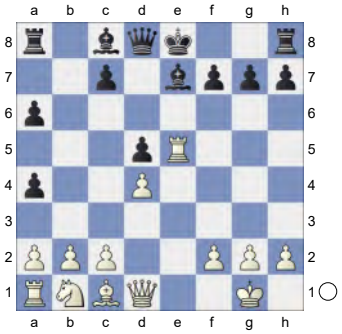
(Diagram)



6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 And now Bb3 would win. **8...d5**



9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 Bb3 is the strong threat. White is slightly better. **10...bxa4**



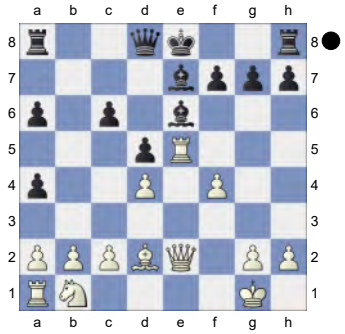
11.Qe2 c6 12.Bd2N

[12.Nc3 a3 13.Na4 Ra7 14.b3 0-0 15.Qd3 Bd6 16.Re1 Qh4 17.g3 Qh3 18.Nc5 Bf5 19.Qc3 h5 20.Bxa3 h4 21.Re2 f6 22.Bb4 a5 23.Bxa5 Rfa8 24.b4 Bxc5 25.Qxc5 Be4 26.Rxe4 dxe4 Brost,A (2541)-2.c4 e5 3.♘f3 d6 4.d4_25079 (2570) Feldkirchen 2020 200 Traps In The Opening [Nyback/Meyer,CD] 0-1 (45)]

[12.Bf4 Ra7 13.Nc3 a3 14.bxa3 0-0 15.Re3 Bxa3 16.Na4 Be7 17.Re1 Be6 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.dxc5 Piorun,K (2601)-Gajewski,G (2618) Polska (ch-m/5-blitz) 146/(120) 2020 [Perunovic,Milos]]

12...Be6 13.f4!

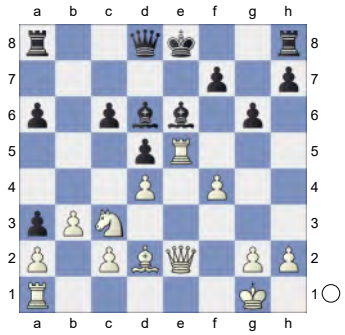
[13.Nc3 Bd6=]



Hoping for f5. **13...g6** Prevents f5. **14.Nc3 a3 15.b3**

[Reject 15.Rxe6 fxe6 16.bxa3 *(16.Qxe6? axb2 17.Rb1 Qd7∓)* 16...Bd6 17.Nxd5 *(17.Qxe6+ Qe7∓)* 17...cxd5∓]

15...Bd6

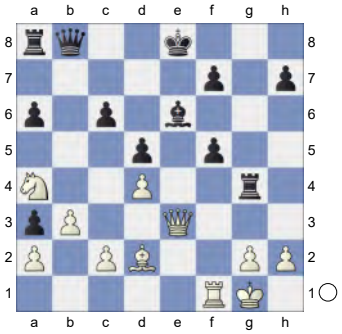


16.f5 gxf5 17.Rf1 Bxe5 18.Qxe5 Rg8 0.79/19

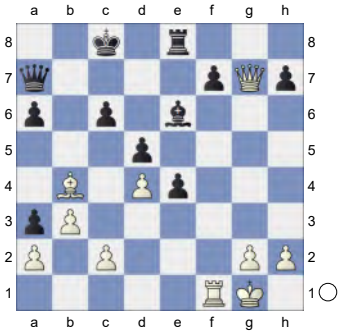
[18...Kd7!= 0.01/18]

19.Na4 Qb8 Threatens to win with ... Qxe5. **20.Qe3 Rg4**

(Diagram)

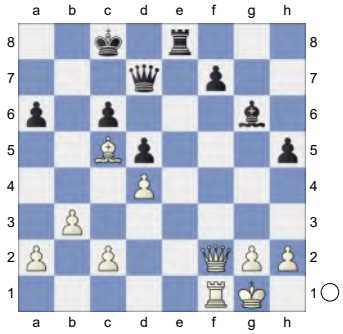


21.Nc5 Re4 22.Nxe4 fxe4 23.Qh6 0.04/18
[23.Qc3± 0.57/18 Kd7 24.Qa5]
23...Qa7 0.83/19
[23...Qb5= 0.04/18]
24.Qg7 0-0-0 25.Bb4 Re8

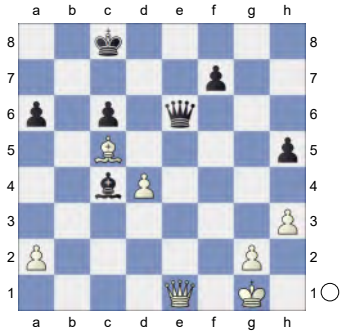


26.Bxa3 h5 27.Bc5 0.59/20 Against Qb6
[27.Bc1± 0.90/19]
27...Qd7 1.27/20
[27...Qc7± 0.59/20]
28.Qg5 0.89/18 &Bianco is more active.
[⌓28.Qh7 1.27/20]
28...e3 1.85/22
[28...Rh8± 0.89/18 is a better defense.]
29.Qxe3+- Bf5 30.Qf2 Bg6

(Diagram)

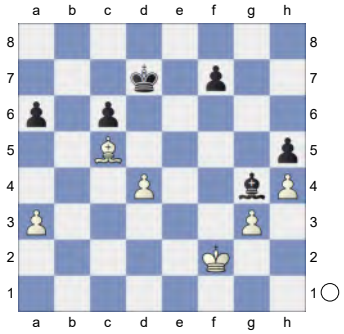


31.c4 0.20/24
[31.Bb4± 1.17/21]
31...Bd3= 32.Re1 With the idea Rxe8+.
[Avoid the trap 32.Qxf7? Qxf7 33.Rxf7 Re1+ 34.Kf2 Rf1+ 35.Ke3 Rxf7-+]
[32.cxd5 is interesting. Bxf1 33.dxc6 Qe6 34.Qxf1 Qe3+ 35.Kh1]
32...Rxe1+ 0.59/5
[32...dxc4= 0.16/23 33.Qg3 Rxe1+ 34.Qxe1 Qe6 35.Qxe6+ fxe6]
33.Qxe1± dxc4 34.bxc4 0.17/21
[34.h4± 0.48/20 might be stronger.]
34...Bxc4= The position is equal. **35.h3 Qe6**
[35...Bxa2 feels hotter. 36.Qe2 Bd5 37.Qxa6+ Qb7]

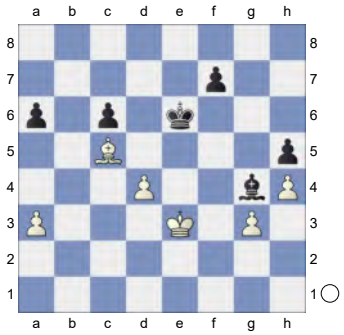


36.Qxe6+ Bxe6 Endgame KB-KB **37.a3 Bd5 38.Kf2 Kd7 39.g3 Be6 40.h4 Bg4**

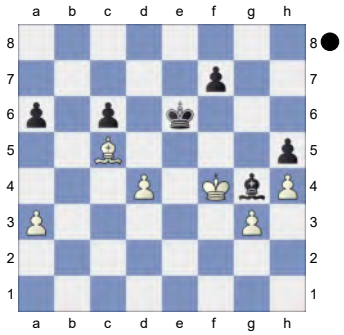
(Diagram)



41.Ke3 Ke6 42.Kf4 Kd5 43.Ke3 Ke6 44.Kf4 Kd5 45.Ke3 Ke6



46.Kf4

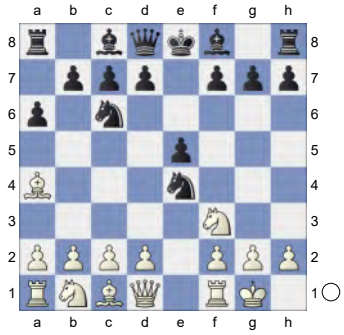


Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)
½-½

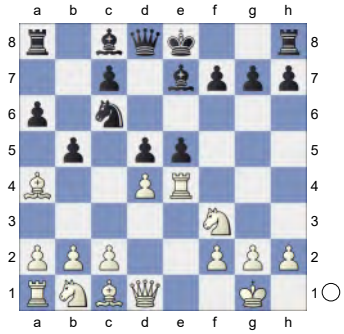
110 **C80**
□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2780**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2872**
11. Classic 2019 (1.2) 03.12.2019
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves

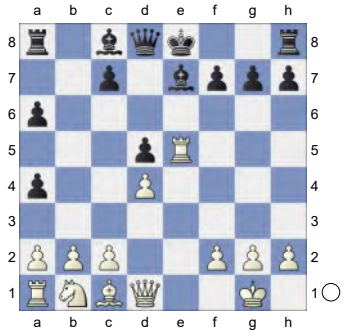
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 Strongly threatening Bb3. **8...d5**

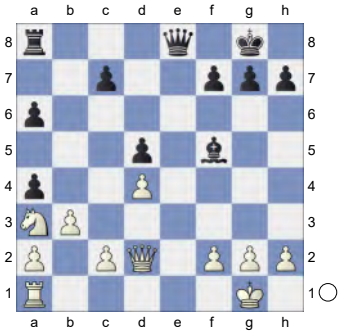


9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 Bb3 is the strong threat. White is slightly better.
10...bxa4

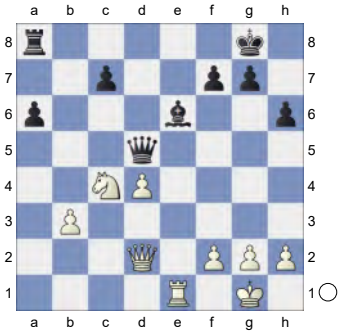


11.b3 0.16/21
[11.Nc3± 0.68/19 c6 12.Nxa4]
11...0-0= 12.Ba3 Bxa3 13.Nxa3 Re8 14.Rxe8+ Qxe8 15.Qd2 Bf5

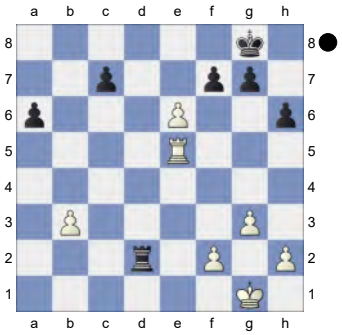
(Diagram)



16.Re1 -0.33/21 Prevents Qe7.
[16.Rc1= -0.01/19]
16...Qc6!∓ 17.c4 axb3 18.axb3 h6N
[18...Rb8]
19.cxd5 Qxd5 20.Nc4 Be6

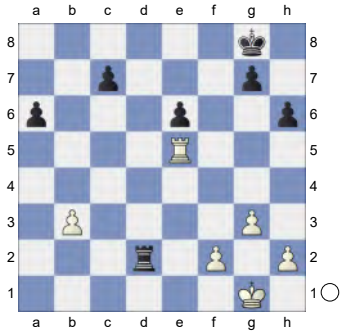


21.Re5 Qd7 22.d5! Rd8 23.dxe6 Qxd2 24.Nxd2 Rxd2± Endgame KR-KR **25.g3**

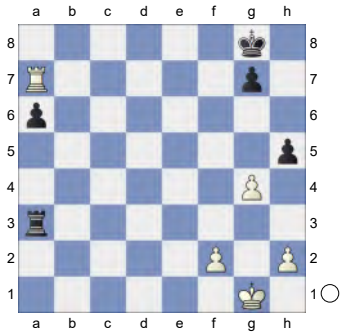


And now e7 would win. **25...fxe6**

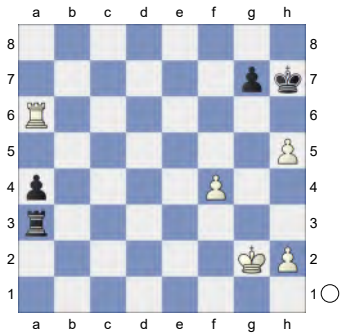
(Diagram)



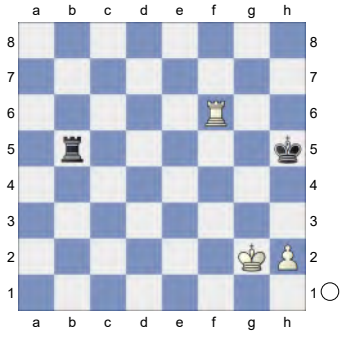
26.Rxe6 Ra2 27.Rc6 Ra3 The position is equal. **28.Rxc7 Rxb3 29.Ra7 Ra3 30.g4 h5**



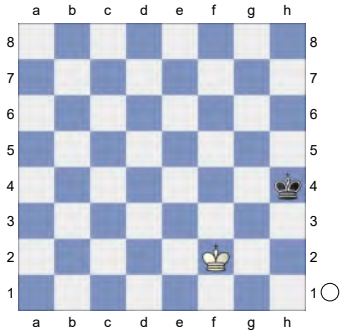
31.gxh5 Kh7 32.Kg2 Ra5 33.f4 Ra3 34.Ra8 a5 35.Ra6 a4



36.f5 Rb3 37.Rxa4 Rb5 38.Rf4 Kh6 39.f6 gxf6 40.Rxf6+ Kxh5



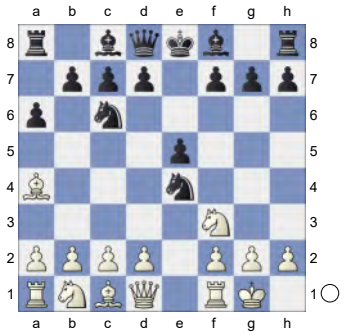
41.h4 Rb2+ 42.Rf2 Rxf2+ 43.Kxf2 Kxh4



Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

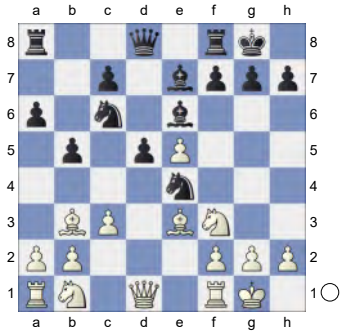
111 **C83**
□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2777**
■ **Madaminov,Mukhiddin** **2484**
Titled 2. Sep Early (4) 12.09.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

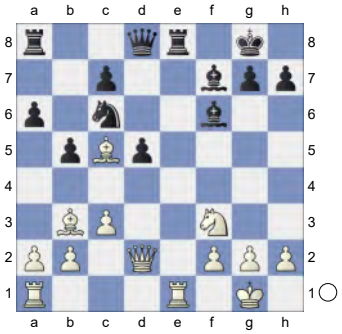


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 0-0

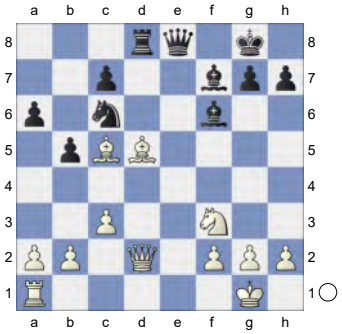
(Diagram)



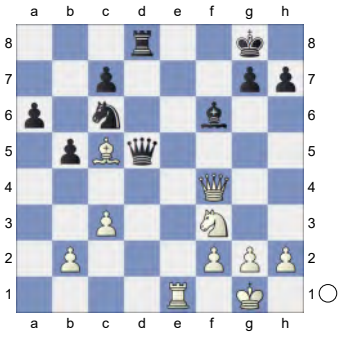
11.Re1 f6N
[11...Na5 12.Bc2 c5 *(12...Nc4 13.Bc1 Bc5 14.Nd4 Nxf2 15.Kxf2 Qh4+ 16.Kg1 Bg4 17.Re2 Bxe2 18.Qxe2 Bxd4+ 19.cxd4 Qxd4+ 20.Qf2 Qxf2+ 21.Kxf2 Nxe5 22.Bf4 Rfe8 23.Nc3 Rad8 24.h3 d4 25.Ne4 Ng6 26.Bg5 Rd5 27.h4* Weis,D (2590)-Zienkiewicz,J (2629) Zürich 2003 Telechess CBM 89 [Shchekachev,Andrei; Korolev,A.V] 0-1 (39) *)* 13.Nbd2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Nc4 15.Qc1 Qc7 16.Bf4 Rfd8 17.b3 Nb6 18.Qe3 d4 19.cxd4 Nd5 20.Qd3 g6 21.Be3 Nxe3 22.Qxe3 cxd4 23.Qd2 d3 24.Bxd3 Bf5 25.Rac1 Qb6 26.Re3 Krueger,P-Van Trotsenburg,B Nijmegen 1914 EXT 2016 [Algemeen Handelsblad] 0-1 (50)]
[11...Bc5 12.Nbd2 Bxe3 13.Rxe3 Nc5 14.Nd4 Ne7 15.Bc2 Nd7 16.b4 c5 17.bxc5 Nxc5 18.Qh5 g6 19.Qh6 Kh8 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Rh3 Rf7 22.Nf3 Nf5 23.Bxf5 gxf5 24.Ng5 Raa7 25.Nxf7+ Rxf7 26.Qf4 Britton,R (2107)-Ther,M (1988) Hull 2023 1-0 (49)]
12.exf6 Bxf6 0.92/22
[12...Nxf6⩲ 0.48/19 deserves consideration. 13.Nbd2 Qd7]
13.Nbd2± Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Bf7
White is better. **15.Bc5 Re8**
(Diagram)



16.Rxe8+
[16.Qf4 keeps more tension. Qd7 17.Ng5 Na5 18.Nxf7 Qxf7 19.Bc2]
16...Qxe8 17.Bxd5 Rd8

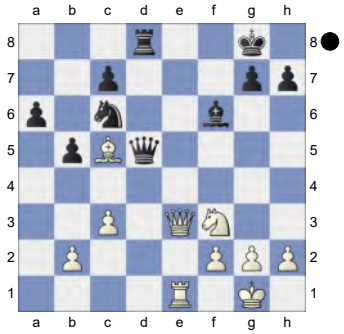


18.Bxf7+ Qxf7 19.Qf4 0.16/22
[19.Qe2± 1.01/19]
19...Qxa2= 20.Re1 Qd5

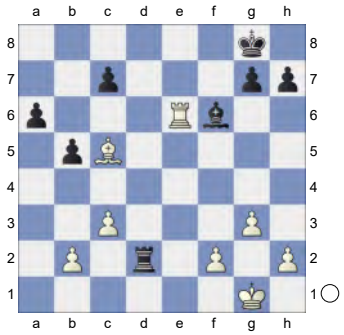


21.Qe3 -0.23/23
[⌓21.Be3 0.16/22]

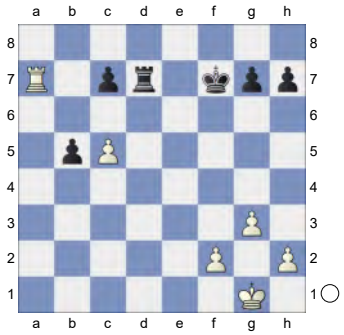
(Diagram)



21...Ne5! 22.Nxe5 Bxe5 23.g3 Bf6 24.Qe6+ Qxe6 25.Rxe6 Endgame KRB-KRB **25...Rd2**

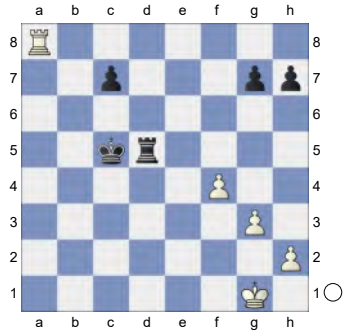


26.b4 Bxc3 27.Rxa6 Bd4 28.Ra8+ Kf7 29.Ra7 Bxc5 30.bxc5 KR-KR **30...Rd7**

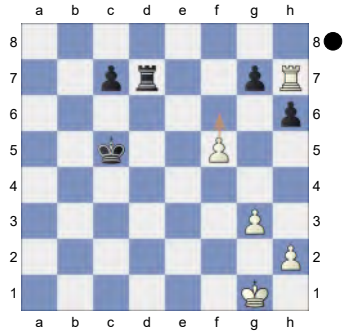


Threatens to win with ...Ke6. **31.Rb7 Ke6** Strongly threatening ...c6. **32.Rxb5 Kd5 33.Ra5 Kc6 34.f4 Rd5 35.Ra8 Kxc5**

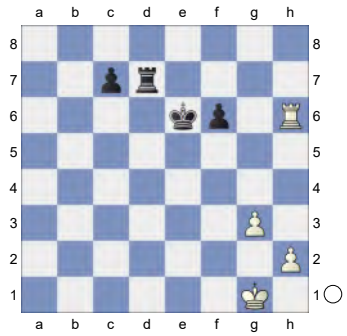
(Diagram)



36.Rh8 -0.35/23
[36.Kg2= 0.01/18]
36...h6!∓ 37.Rh7 -0.82/23
[37.Kf2∓ -0.39/21]
37...Rd7∓ 38.f5

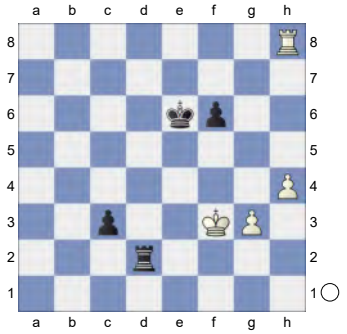


Kd6 -0.01/23
[Black should play 38...Rf7!∓ -1.04/21]
39.f6!= The position is equal. **39...gxf6 40.Rxh6 Ke6**

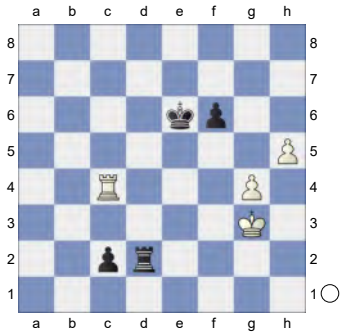


41.Rh5 Rd5 42.Rh8 c5 43.Kf2 Rd2+ 44.Kf3 c4 45.h4 c3

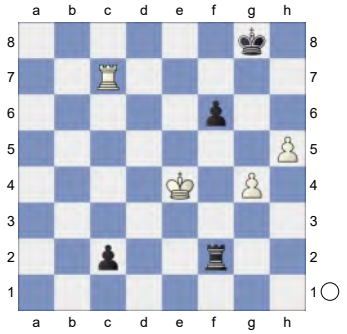
(Diagram)



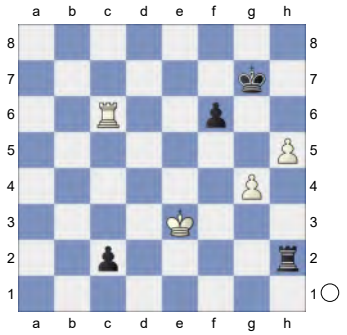
46.Rc8 c2 47.h5 Rh2 48.g4 Kd7 49.Rc4 Ke6 50.Kg3 Rd2



51.Rc8 Kf7 52.Rc7+ Kg8 53.Kf4 Rf2+ 54.Ke3 Rh2 55.Ke4 Rf2

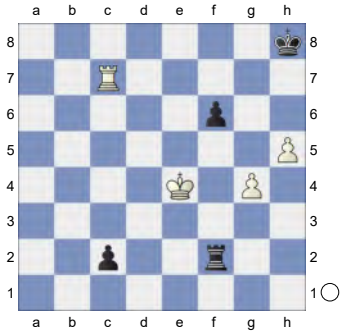


56.Ke3 Rh2 57.Kf3 Rd2 58.Rc6 Kg7 59.Ke4 Rf2 60.Ke3 Rh2

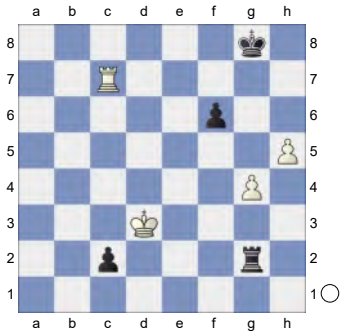


61.Kf4 Rf2+ 62.Kg3 Rd2 63.Rc7+

Kg8 64.Kf4 Rf2+ 65.Ke4 Kh8



66.Kd5 Re2 67.Kd6 Kg8 68.Kd5 Kh8 69.Kd4 Kg8 70.Kd3 Rg2

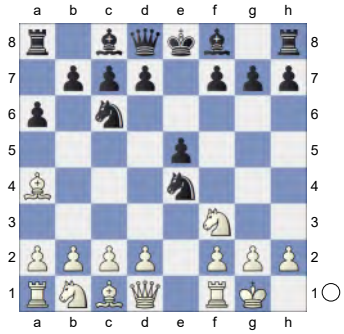


Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless) . Loss on time!?
0-1

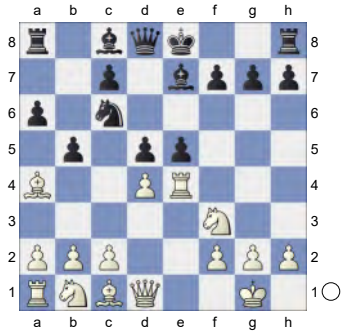
112 **C80**
☐ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2819**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2875**
GCT 2019 Zagreb CRO (3.1) 28.06.2019
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

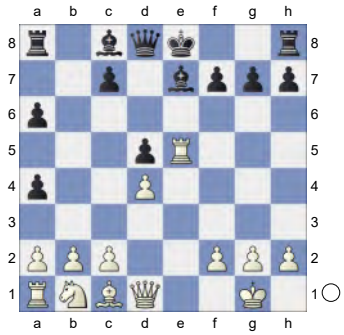
(Diagram)



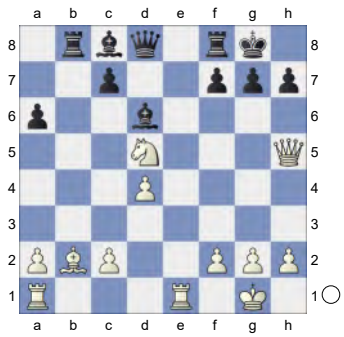
6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 d5



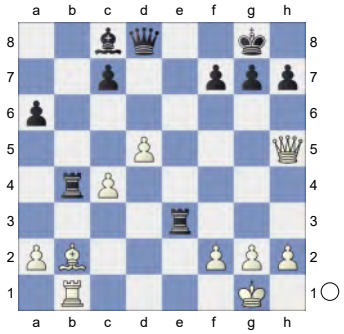
9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 aiming for Bb3. White is slightly better. **10...bxa4**



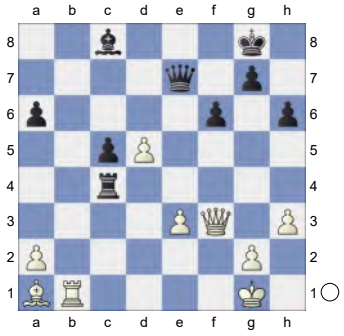
11.Nc3 0-0 12.Re1 0.11/17
[12.Rxd5± 0.57/18 Bd6 13.Bf4!]
12...Bd6 13.Qh5 a3 14.Nxd5 axb2 15.Bxb2 Rb8!



16.Rab1 Re8N
[16...Be6 17.c4 g6 18.Qe2 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Bb4 20.Rec1 Qxd5 21.Qxa6 Bd6 22.h3 Ra8 23.Qd3 Rxa2 The Be7 Spanish-Line Theoretical Improve]
17.Ne3 Bf4 18.d5 Rb4 19.c4 0.01/20
[19.Qf3± 0.38/18 was preferrable.]
19...Bxe3= 20.Rxe3 Rxe3

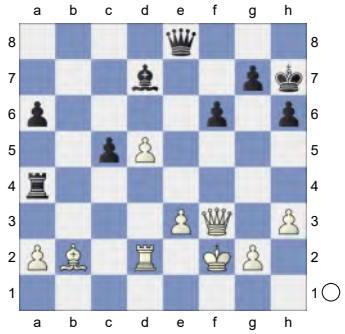


21.fxe3 Rxc4 22.Bd4 c5 23.Ba1 f6 And now ...Bg4 would win. **24.h3** Against Bg4 **24...Qe7**
[24...Qd7 with more complications. 25.a3 a5 26.d6 Qe6]
25.Qf3 h6
[25...a5 is interesting. 26.Rb8 Qc7 27.Ra8 Rc1+]

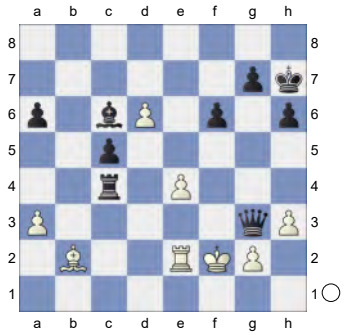


26.Re1
[26.Rb8 keeps more tension. Qc7 27.Ra8 Rc1+ 28.Kf2]
26...Re4 27.Kf2 Bd7 28.Rd1 -0.52/20
[28.Bb2= -0.16/19]
28...Kh7 -0.17/20
[28...Ra4∓ -0.52/20 29.Rd2 Ra3]

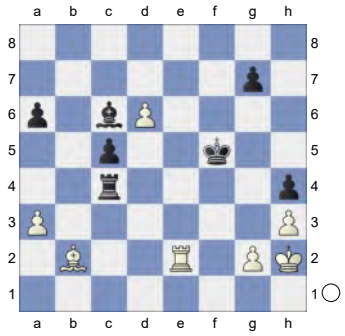
29.Rd2 Qe8 30.Bb2 Ra4



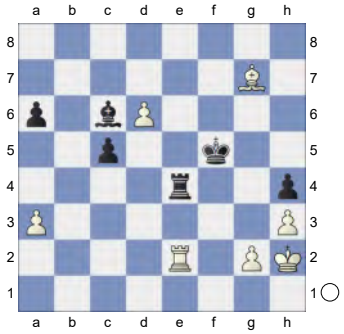
31.a3 Rc4 Prevents Rc2.
[31...Qg6!?]
32.Re2 Qg6 33.e4 Ba4 Strongly threatening ...Bd1. **34.d6 Bc6**
[34...Bd1? 35.d7 Bxe2 36.Qxe2 Rxe4 37.Qf3+-]
35.Qg3 Qxg3+
[35...Rxe4? 36.Qxg6+ Kxg6 37.Rxe4+-]



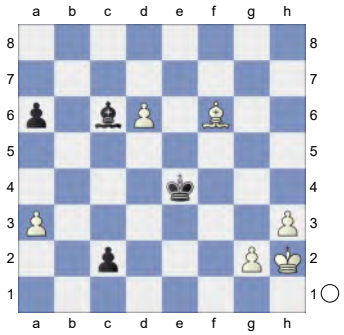
36.Kxg3 Endgame KRB-KRB **36...Kg6 37.e5! fxe5 38.Bxe5 h5 39.Bb2! h4+ 40.Kh2 Kf5**



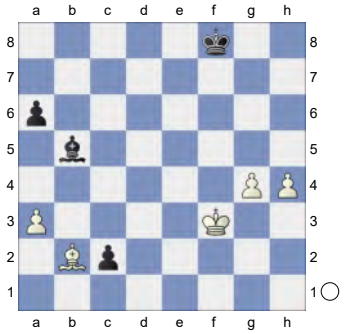
41.Bxg7 Re4
(Diagram)



42.Rxe4 Kxe4± KB-KB 43.Bf6 c4 44.Bxh4 &Bianco is more active. **44...c3 45.Bf6 c2**

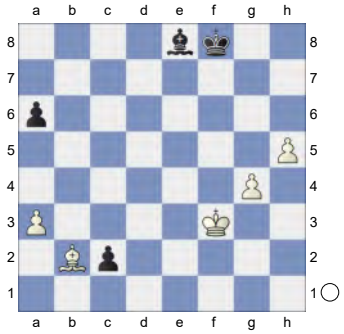


46.Bb2 Kd5 47.g4 Kxd6 48.Kg3 Bb5 49.Kf3 Ke7 50.h4 Kf8

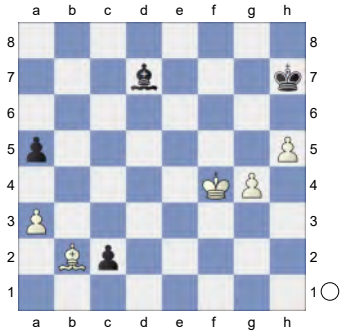


51.h5 Threatens to win with g5. **51...Be8** 1.79/27
[51...Kf7± 1.22/27 52.g5 Ke6]

(Diagram)

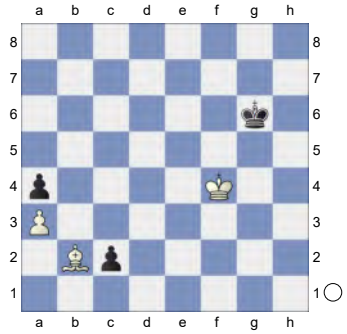


52.Kg3 1.16/29
[52.Kf4!+- 1.79/27]
52...Kg8? 2.95/27
[52...Ke7± 1.16/29 53.Kf3 Ke6]
53.Kh4 Hoping for g5. **53...Kh7?** 6.91/34
[53...Ba4 2.89/31 54.g5 c1B 55.Bxc1 Kf7 56.g6+ Kf6 57.Bb2+ Kf5]
54.Kg5? 1.18/29
[54.g5+- 6.91/34 and White stays clearly on top. Bf7 55.a4]
54...Bd7 55.Kf4 a5? 6.93/33
[55...Be8± 1.14/28 56.Kg3 Bb5]

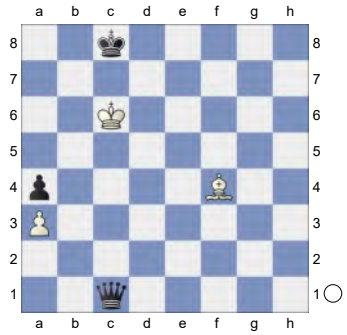


56.Kg5 a4 57.Kf4? 1.64/32
[57.Kh4 6.91/35 Bb5 58.g5]
57...Be6? 6.93/36
[57...Kh6 58.Bc1±]
[57...Bb5 1.64/32 58.Kf3 Bd7]
58.g5+- White is clearly winning.
58...Bf7 59.g6+ Bxg6 60.hxg6+ Kxg6

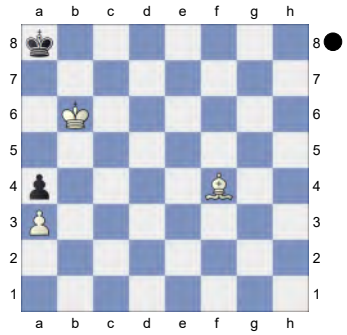
(Diagram)



KB-KPP **61.Ke5 Kf7 62.Kd6 Ke8 63.Bc1 Kd8 64.Kc6 Kc8 65.Bf4 c1Q+**



66.Bxc1 Kb8 67.Kb6 Ka8 68.Bf4

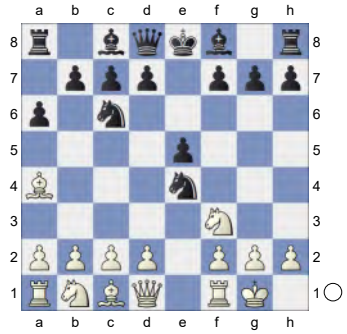


Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/ Black=0.47
½-½

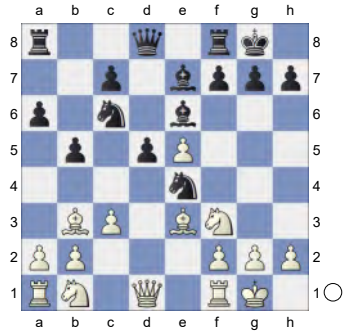
113 **C83**
☐ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2819**
■ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2767**
7. Chess 2019 (7.4) 12.06.2019
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 0-0



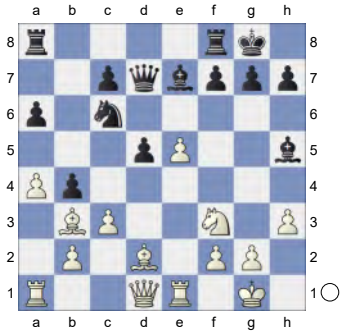
11.Nbd2 Bg4 12.Re1
[12.Nxe4 keeps more tension. dxe4 13.Qd5 Qxd5 14.Bxd5 exf3 15.Bxc6 fxg2 16.Rfc1 Rab8 17.a4 b4 18.Bxg2 c5 19.cxb4 Rxb4 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 Rxb2 22.Rc7 Rd8 ½-½ (22) Nigmatov,O (2344)-Saydaliev,S (2276) Toshkent 2023]
[12.h3 Nxd2 13.hxg4 Nxf1 14.Kxf1 Na5 15.Bxd5 c6 16.Be4 Qxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Nc4 18.Bc1 Rfd8 19.Re1 Rac8 20.g5 g6 21.g3 Caruana,F (2806)-Dominguez Perez,L (2758) Saint Louis (blitz) 149/(125) 2021 Chess Informant 149 [Milanovic, Danilo]]
12...Nxd2N
[12...Nxe5 13.Nxe4 Bxf3 14.Qxd5 Qxd5 15.Bxd5 Rad8 16.Bb7 f5 *(16...Bxe4 17.Bxe4 Nc4 18.a4 Nxe3 19.Rxe3 Bc5 20.Re2 b4*

Svidler,P (2714)-Dominguez Perez,L (2758) Saint Louis (blitz) 149/(125) 2021 Chess Informant 149 [Milanovic, Danilo] *)* 17.Nc5 Bxb7 18.Nxb7 Rd5 19.Bd4 Nc6 20.Na5 Nxa5 21.Rxe7 Rf7 22.Re8+ Rf8 23.Re7 Rf7 24.Re8+ Rf8 25.Re7 ½-½ (25) Motylev,A (2668)-Matlakov,M (2710) Izhevsk RUS 2019 [Mikhalevski,V]]

13.Bxd2 Qd7 14.h3 White is slightly better. **14...Bh5 15.a4** 0.31/19

[⌓15.Bf4 0.63/19]

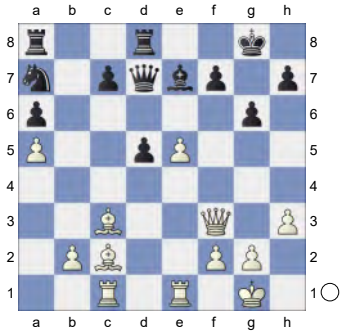
15...b4



16.a5 bxc3 17.Bxc3 Rfd8 18.Rc1 Bxf3 2.26/19

[18...Bg5± 0.78/20 was called for.]

19.Qxf3+- Na7 20.Bc2 And now e6! would win. **20...g6**

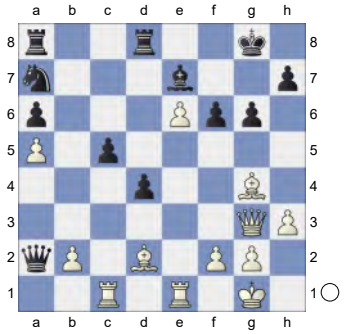


21.Qg3 Qe6 2.73/20

[21...Nb5 1.86/22 keeps fighting.]

22.Bd1 d4 23.Bd2 c5 24.Bg4 Qa2 25.e6 f6

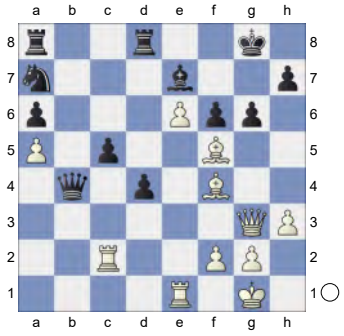
(Diagram)



26.Bf5 Qxb2? 4.35/21

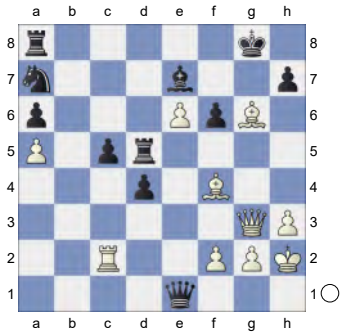
[26...Kh8 2.47/20]

27.Rc2 Qb8 28.Bf4 Qb4



29.Bxg6! Qxe1+ 30.Kh2 Intending Bf5+ and mate. **30...Rd5**

[30...hxg6? 31.Qxg6+ Kh8 32.Qh5+ Kg8 33.Qf7+ Kh8 34.Qxe7]



31.Rc1 Rg5 10.50/21

[⌓31...Qb4 4.23/22]

32.Qf3? 2.90/21

[32.Rxe1 Rxg3 33.Be4 *(33.Bf7+ Kg7∓)* 33...Ra3 34.Bxa8 Nb5∓]

[32.Bf7+ 10.50/21 Kh8 33.Bxg5 *(33.Rxe1 Rxg3 34.Kxg3 c4=)*]

32...Qxe6 33.Qxa8+ Kg7

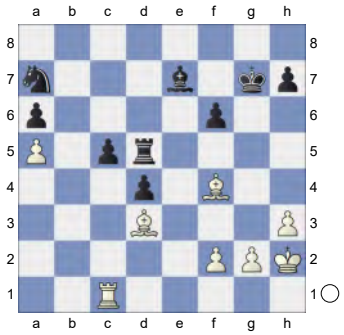
[33...Nc8? 34.Bd3 Kg7 35.Bxg5 fxg5 36.Kg1+-]

34.Bd3 1.50/22

[Resist 34.Bxg5?! hxg6 35.Bd2 *(35.Qxa7 fxg5 36.Rd1 Kf7±)* 35...Bd6+ 36.Kh1 Nb5+-]

[34.Be4+- 3.08/21 and White stays clearly on top.]

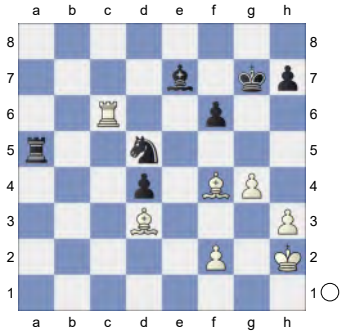
34...Qd5± 35.Qxd5 Dancing on a razor blade. &Bianco is much more active. **35...Rxd5**



36.Bxa6 Strongly threatening Bd3. **36...c4** Prevents Bd3. **37.Bxc4** This bishop pair is nice. **37...Rxa5 38.Bd3 Nb5** Against Rc7 **39.Rc6** 0.98/23

[⌓39.Re1 1.45/22 Bc5 40.Re8]

39...Nc3 40.g4 Nd5



41.Bd6 Ra7 1.02/23

[41...Nb4± 0.60/21 42.Bxb4 Bxb4]

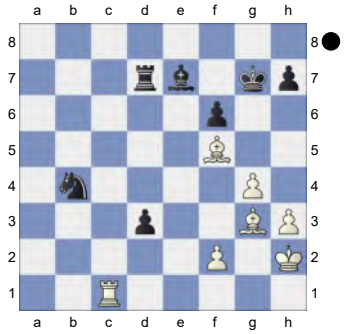
42.Be4 Rd7 43.Bg3

[Reject 43.Bxd5?! Bxd6+ 44.Kg2 d3=]

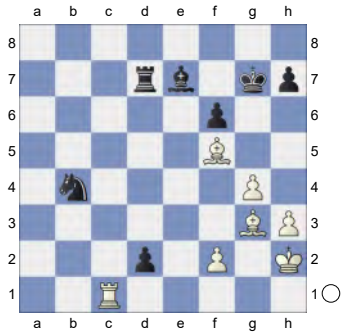
43...Nb4 44.Rc1 -0.09/21

[44.Rc7± 1.02/24 Rxc7 45.Bxc7]

44...d3= ...d2 is the strong threat. **45.Bf5**



d2!

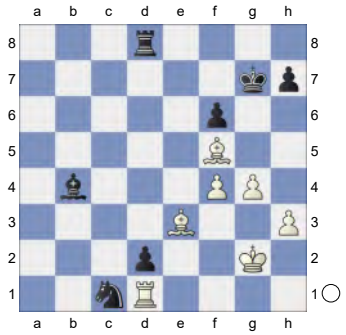


46.Rd1 Rd4 Hoping for ...Nd5. **47.f4! Na2 48.Bf2 Rd8**

[48...Nc3? 49.Bxd4 Nxd1 50.Bc2+-]

[48...Rd5!? 49.Be3 Bb4±]

49.Be3! Bb4 aiming for ...Re8. **50.Kg2 Nc1**

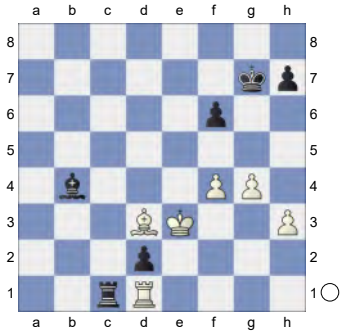


51.Kf3 Nb3 52.Bc2 -0.44/22

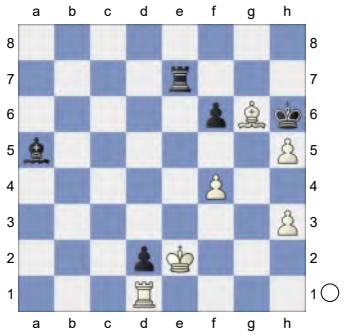
[52.Kf2= 0.01/23]

52...Nd4+∓ 53.Bxd4 Rxd4= Endgame KRB-KRB **54.Ke3 Rc4 55.Bd3 Rc1**

(Diagram)

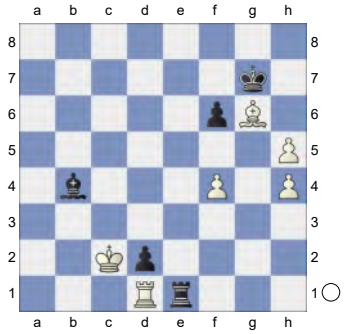


56.Ke2 -0.75/25
[56.Be2∓ -0.43/25]
56...h5∓ 57.gxh5 Kh6 58.Bg6 Ba5
Black has strong compensation.
[58...Rc4!?]
59.Be8 -1.15/22
[59.Rxd2∓ -0.57/25 Bxd2 60.Kxd2]
59...Rc7 -0.83/24
[⌓59...Rc4 -1.15/22 Threatens to win with ...Re4+. 60.Bg6 Rxf4]
60.Bg6 Re7+

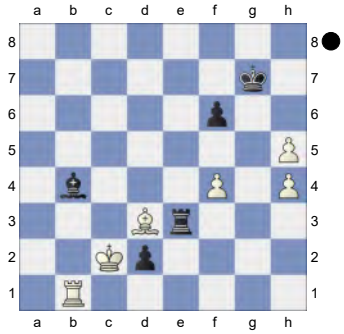


61.Kd3 Re1 62.Kc2 Re3 63.h4 -1.57/23
[63.Ra1∓ -0.69/25 Re1 64.Rd1]
63...Re1 -0.56/26
[63...Rh3!∓ -1.57/23 64.Ra1 Rc3+ 65.Kd1 Bb4]
64.Bf7 -1.77/24
[Only move: 64.Rxd2∓ -0.56/26 Bxd2 65.Kxd2]
64...Kg7 -0.53/26
[64...Re4-+ -1.77/24 65.f5 Re1]
65.Bg6∓ Bb4

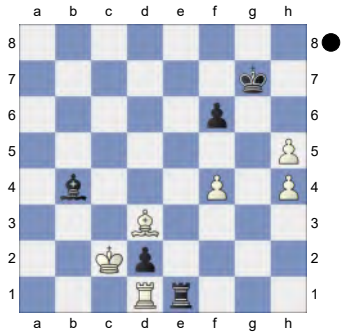
(Diagram)



66.Bd3 -0.96/25
[66.Rxd2∓ -0.53/26 was preferrable. Bxd2 67.Kxd2]
66...Re3 -0.37/23
[66...Kh6∓ -0.96/25 67.Bg6 Ba5]
67.Rb1



Re1? 0.01/27 **68.Rd1**

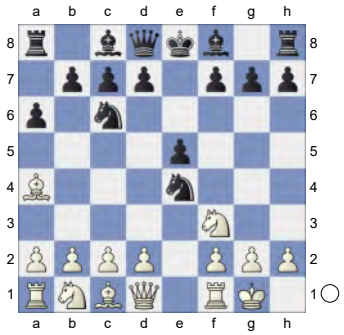


Black defended with fortune.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/ Black=0.14 (very precise)
½-½

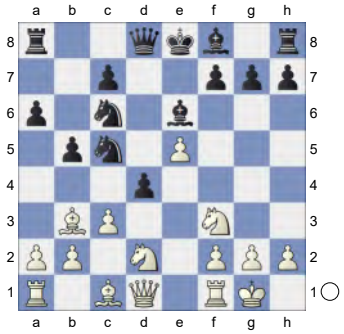
114 **C80**
□ **Grischuk,Alexander** **2775**
■ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2767**
7. Chess 2019 (8.5) 13.06.2019
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

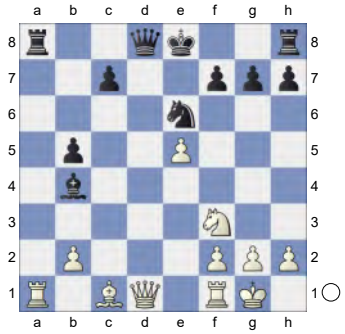


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 d4



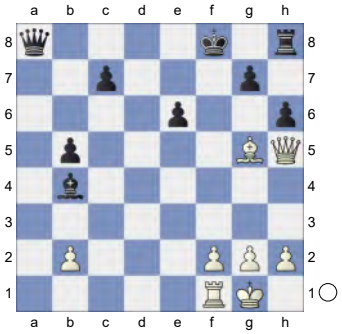
11.Bxe6 Nxe6 12.cxd4 Ncxd4 13.a4 Bb4 14.axb5 Nxf3+ 1.06/22
[14...axb5? 15.Rxa8 Qxa8 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qg4+-]
[14...Nxb5± 0.31/21 15.Qb3 Bxd2 16.Bxd2 0-0]
15.Nxf3 0.63/22
[White should try 15.Qxf3± 1.06/22 0-0 16.b6]
15...axb5±

(Diagram)

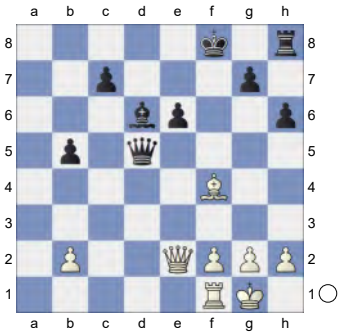


White is slightly better. **16.Rxa8 Qxa8 17.Ng5!** Against Qe4 **17...Nxg5**
[17...Qc6 18.Qg4 Qc4 19.Qf5 Nd8 20.Rd1 Qc6 21.Nxh7 Be7 22.Qh5 g6 23.Qh3 Ne6 24.Be3 Qc2 25.Rc1 Qxb2 26.f4 Qa3 27.Kf2 Qa2+ 28.Kf1 Qa3 29.Kf2 Qa2+ 30.Kf1 Qa3 ½-½ (30) Hantel,T (2754)-Tarnowski,M (2713) Eesti - Suomi 81/(33) 2005 MAS A04 LF [Western Daily Mercury 24/3/1905]]
[17...Be7 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Qg4 Kf7 20.Qf4+ Ke8 21.Rd1 Rf8 22.Qg4 Qa4 Sybil (2714)-Einarsson,E (2645) Hastings 2021 200 Traps In The Opening [Nyback/Meyer,CD]]
18.Bxg5 Qg4 is the strong threat.
18...h6 19.e6N
[19.Bh4 0-0 20.Qg4 c5 21.Bf6 g6 22.Qf4 Kh7 23.Be7 Rg8 24.Qxf7+ Rg7 25.Qf6 Qe8 26.Bd6 Rf7 27.Qh4 Qe6 28.Qe4 Rd7 29.Qe3 1-0 (29) 8...d6 9...d6 10. Bd2 #2-Tartakower Variation,W Paris 1981 ZUS C73 [John Watson]]
19...fxe6 20.Qh5+ Kf8

(Diagram)



21.Bf4 Qd5 22.Qe2 Threatens to win with Rd1. **22...Bd6**

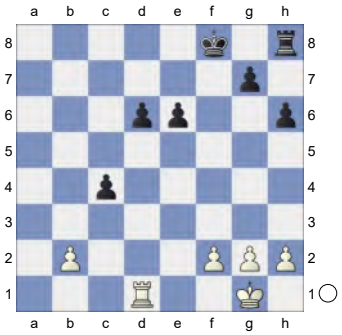


23.Rd1! Deflection **23...Qc4 24.Qxc4** 0.01/23

[24.Bxd6+± 0.38/21 cxd6 25.Qf3+ Ke7 26.Qg3]

24...bxc4= The position is equal.

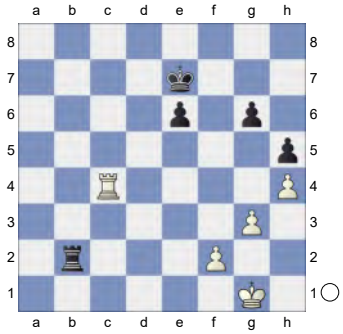
25.Bxd6+ cxd6



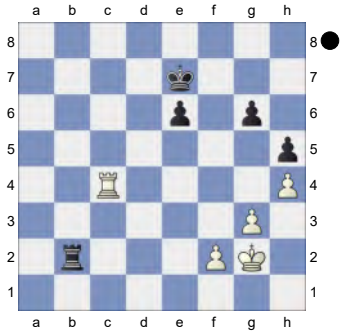
26.Rxd6± Hoping for Rd8+. KR-KR

26...Ke7 Inhibits Rd8. **27.Rc6 Rb8 28.Rxc4 Rxb2** (-> ...Rb1+) **29.g3 h5 30.h4 g6**

(Diagram)



31.Kg2



Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.10 (very precise)

½-½

115 **C81**

□ **Li,Chao** **2651**

■ **Xu,Yinglun** **2515**

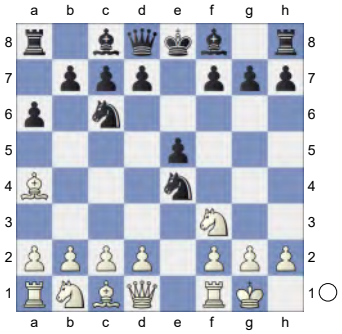
Chinese Team Championship 2024 | Op..

[Kitty Kat]

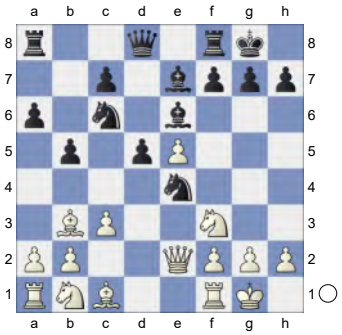
C81: Open Ruy Lopez: Keres Variation (9 Qe2)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Qe2 0-0



11.Rd1 Re8N

[11...Nc5 12.Bc2 Bg4 13.Nbd2 f6 14.h3 Bh5 15.b4 Na4 16.exf6 Rxf6 17.Ne4 Re6 18.Be3 Ne5 19.g4 Bg6 20.Nd4 Bxe4 21.Bxe4 Rd6 22.Bf4 dxe4 23.Bxe5 Nxc3 24.Qc2 Nxd1 25.Rxd1 e3 26.fxe3 De Sa,E-Chapter Soviet Union 2013 CCYB ?? [Vaiser,V]]

[11...Qd7 12.Nbd2 Nxd2 *(12...Nc5 13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Nxb3 15.Nxb3 f5 16.f4 a5 17.Be3 a4 18.Nc1 Kh8 19.Nd3 Rg8 20.Rac1 g5 21.Nc5 Bxc5 22.Rxc5 gxf4 23.Bxf4 Rg4 24.g3 c6 25.Rdc1 Ra6 26.Qc2 Qg7 27.Rxc6* Pihlajinen,J-Nylund,T corr 1970 OM Corr 202003 [Kirjeshakki] 1-0 *)* 13.Qxd2 Rad8 14.a4 *(14.Qe2 Rfe8 15.Ng5 Bg4 16.f3 Bc5+ 17.Kh1 Rxe5 18.Qf1 Bh5 19.Bf4 Rf5 20.Nh3 Bg6 21.g4 Rf6 22.Bg5 Rd6 23.Bxd8 Nxd8 24.Nf4 Ne6 25.Nxd5 a5 26.a4 c6 27.Ne3 Bxe3 28.Rxd6 Qxd6* Mora Munoz,A (2110)-Bobadilla Viera,J (2363) Medellin 2024 0-1 (57)*)* 14...f6 15.axb5 axb5 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Qe2 Rfe8 18.Bg5 d4 19.Qxb5 Bxg5 20.Bxe6+ Qxe6 21.Nxg5 Qd5 22.Qxd5+ Rxd5 23.Nf3 d3 24.b4 Ne5 25.Nd2 Ng4 26.Nb3 Vachier Lagrave,M (2761)-Predke,A (2682) Berlin 2022 CBM 207 [Predke,Alexandr] 1-0 (64)]

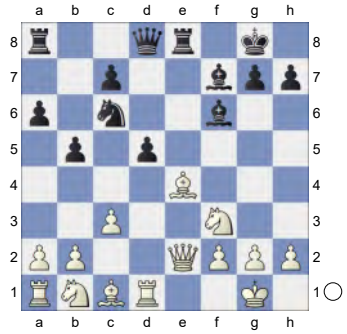
[11...f5 12.exf6 Rxf6 13.Be3 Na5 14.Bc2 Qe8 15.Ng5 Nxg5 16.Bxg5 Rf7 17.Be3 Qd7 18.Nd2 Bd6 19.b4 Nc6 20.a4 Rb8 21.axb5 axb5 22.Nf3 Bg4 23.Qd3 Bf5 24.Qd2 Bxc2 25.Qxc2 Rxf3 26.gxf3 5. Exercises 3-Viacheslav Ragozin Vs Grigor (34)]

12.Bc2 f5 0.66/19

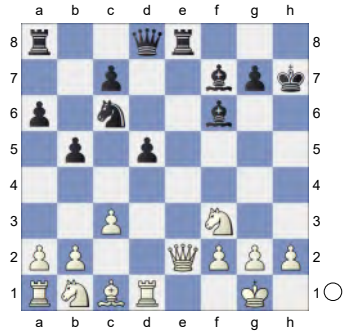
[12...Qc8= 0.23/18]

13.exf6± Bxf6 White is slightly better.

14.Bxe4 Bf7

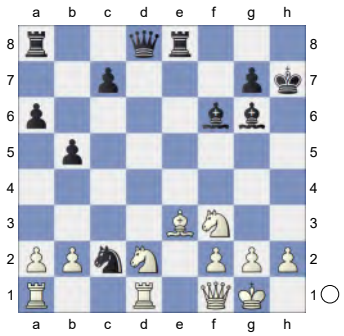


15.Bxh7+! Kxh7

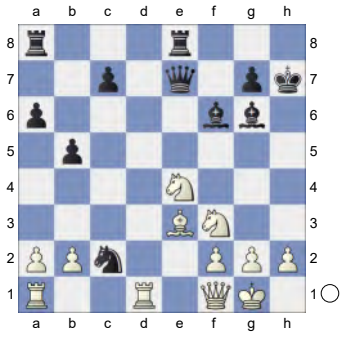


16.Be3! Bg6 17.Nbd2 d4 18.cxd4 Nxd4 19.Qf1 Threatens to win with

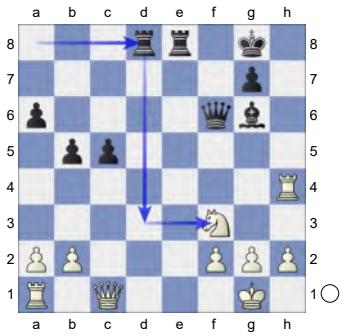
Nxd4. **19...Nc2**



H o p i n g f o r . . . B d 3 . **20.Ne4!** Pair of Knights! **20...Qe7**

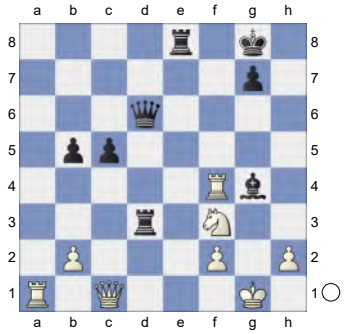


21.Nxf6+ Qxf6 22.Bd4 Nxd4 23.Rxd4 c5 24.Rh4+ Kg8 25.Qc1 Rad8

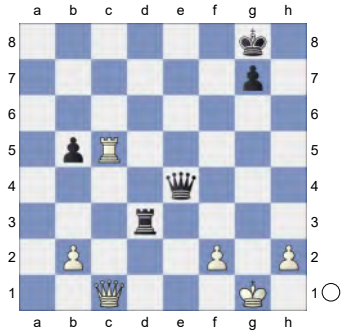


26.a4
[26.Rf4!? Qe7 27.h3±]
26...Rd3 aiming for ...Rxf3. **27.Rf4 Qd6 28.axb5 axb5 29.g3** -1.15/23
[29.Rg4= 0.10/21]
29...Bh5∓ 30.g4 Bxg4 -0.14/25

(Diagram)

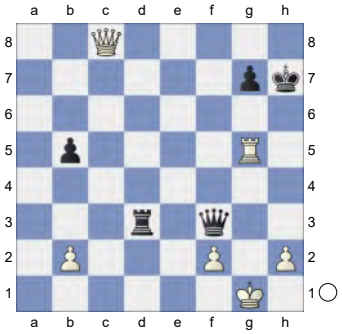


31.Rxg4= The position is equal.
31...Rxf3 32.Ra7 Re7 33.Rxe7 Qxe7 34.Rg5 Rd3 ...Qe4 is the strong threat.
35.Rxc5 Qe4



Strongly threatening ...Qg4+. **36.Rg5** Inhibits Qg4+.
[36.Rxb5 Qg4+ 37.Kh1 Rd1+ 38.Qxd1 Qxd1+ 39.Kg2 Qg4+ 40.Kh1 Qe4+ 41.Kg1 Qg6+ 42.Kh1 Qc6+ 43.Kg1 Qg6+ 44.Kf1 Qd3+ 45.Ke1 Qxb5 46.b4 Qxb4+ 47.Ke2 Qb5+ 48.Kf3 Qe5 49.h4 Qh2 50.h5 Qxh5+ 51.Kf4 Qe2 52.Kf5 Kf7 53.Kf4 Kf6 54.Kg3 Kf5 55.Kh2 Qxf2+ 56.Kh1 Qd2 57.Kg1 Kf4 58.Kh1 Kg3 59.Kg1 Qg2#]
36...Qf3 37.Qc8+ Kh7

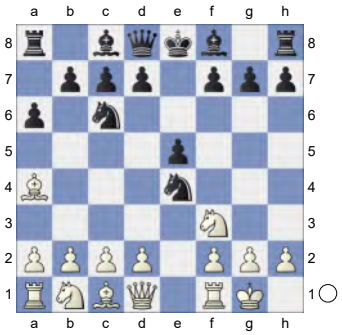
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.12 (very precise)
½-½

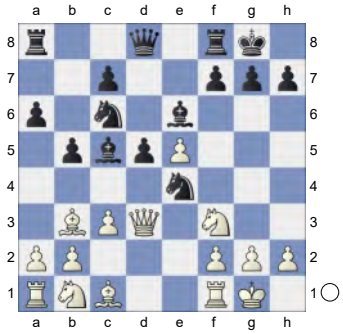
116 **C82**
□ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2728**
■ **Abdusattorov,Nodirbek** **2627**
Titled 1. Aug (9) 11.08.2020
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
Yusupov,A: '44/408 ' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Qd3 0-0

(Diagram)



11.Nbd2 f5 12.Nd4N -0.70/20
[12.exf6!= 0.24/17 Nxf6
A) 13.a4
A1) 13...Bf7 14.Ng5 Ne5 15.Qg3 Qd6 *(15...Qe7 16.Nxf7 Rxf7 17.axb5 Nh5 18.Qh3 Nf4* Line Nbd2-N,N [GM Mihail Marin] *)* 16.Nxf7 Nxf7 17.Nf3 Qxg3 18.hxg3 c6 19.Nd4 Bxd4 20.cxd4 Ne4 21.g4 Rfe8 22.Kh2 Nfd6 23.f3 Nf6 24.Bc2 bxa4 25.Rxa4 Nb5 26.Bf4 Nd7 27.Rfa1 Nb6 28.Rxa6 Sokolov,A (2635)-Jussupow,A (2635) Tilburg 1987 CI1-130 [Jussupow,Artur] ½-½ (64);
A2) 13...Rb8 14.axb5 axb5 15.Ra6 *(15.Ng5 Ne5 16.Qg3 Qd6 17.Bc2 Bb6 18.Nb3 Ne4 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Nxe4 Qc6 21.Ned2 Bd5 22.Qxe5 Rbe8 23.Nd4 Rxe5 24.Nxc6 Bxc6 25.Nf3 Bxf3 26.gxf3 Rxf3* Verot,M-Fuentes,A Gorzow 2013 200 Traps In The Opening [Lippstreu]*)* 15...Qd7 16.Ng5 Bf5 17.Nde4 Bb6 18.Nxf6+ Rxf6 19.Qxd5+ ½-½ (19) Kavakul,M (2545)-9. ♘d2 a5/ 14. ♕c2 ♘gf6 1 (2495) Belgrad 1995 Telechess CBM 89 [Stoica,V];
B) 13.Ng5 Ne5 14.Qg3 Qd6 15.Bc2 Rae8 16.Nb3 Bb6 17.Bf4 Bd7 18.Nd4 Nh5 19.Bxe5 Rxe5

20.Bxh7+ Kh8 21.Qh4 Qh6 22.Ndf3 Re2 23.Bd3 Rxb2 24.Nf7+ 1-0 (24) Gertosio,F-Laiho Reykjavik 1974 CBM 086 ext [Dragan Solak]]

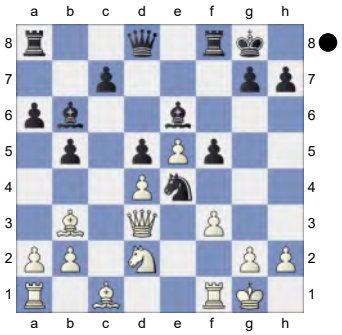
12...Nxd4 -0.03/18

[12...Nxe5∓ -0.70/20 13.Qh3 Ng5]

13.cxd4= Bb6 The position is equal.

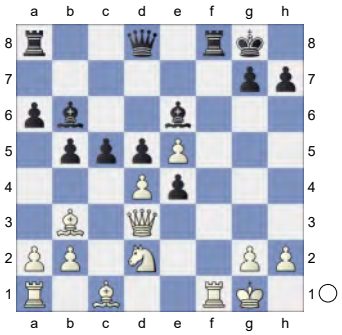
14.f3 -1.16/20

[14.Nf3= -0.08/17 keeps the balance.]



14...c5!∓ Strongly threatening ...c4. &Nero is more active. **15.fxe4 fxe4** -0.77/23

[⌓15...c4 -1.44/22 16.Qh3 dxe4]



16.Rxf8+ Qxf8 17.Qg3 -1.84/20

[17.Qc3∓ -0.70/22 b4 18.Qc2]

17...c4-+ 18.Qe3 -2.21/22

[⌓18.Qc3 -1.66/21 Qb8 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Bc2]

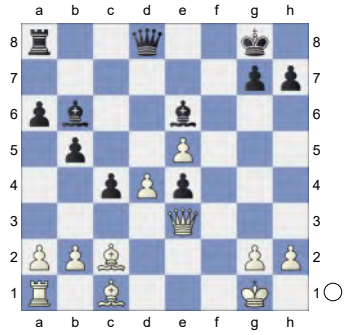
18...Qb8 Threatens to win with ...Qa7.

[Weaker is 18...cxb3 19.Nxb3 b4 20.Bd2=]

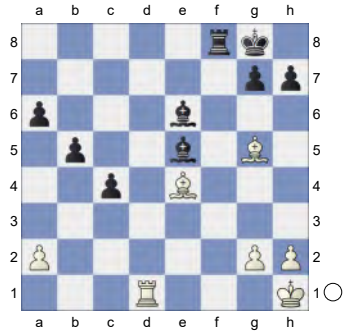
19.Nxe4 -3.37/20

[19.Bxc4 -1.93/20 was called for. bxc4 20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Qxe4]

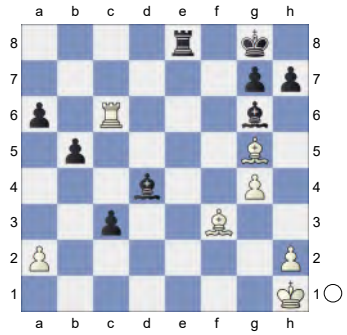
19...dxe4 20.Bc2 Qd8



21.Kh1 Qxd4 22.Qxd4 Bxd4 23.Bxe4 Rf8 24.Bg5 Bxb2 25.Rd1 Bxe5



26.Bf3 Bf5 27.Rd5 Re8 28.g4 Bg6 29.Rc5 Bd4 30.Rc6 c3

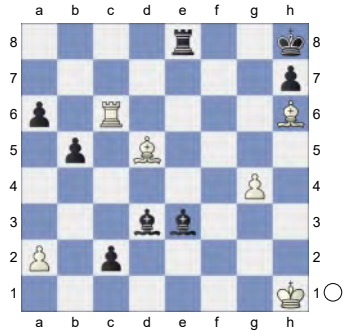


31.Bd5+ Kh8 32.h4 c2 33.h5 Bd3 Black is clearly winning. **34.h6** -6.02/22

[⌓34.Bc1 -4.29/21 b4 35.Kh2]

34...gxh6 35.Bxh6 Be3

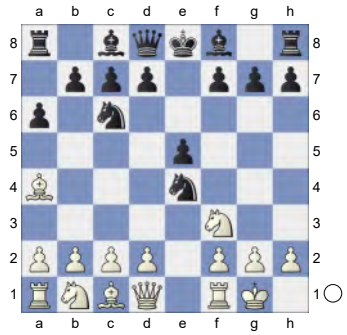
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.73/ Black=0.31
0-1

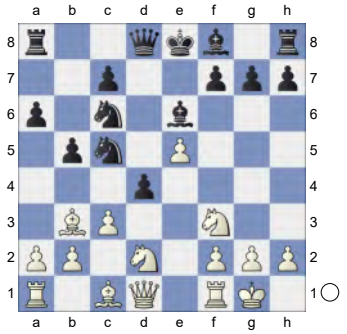
117 **C80**
□ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2729**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2817**
Tata Steel India Blitz (6.2) 13.11.2018
[Kitty Kat]

C80: Open Ruy Lopez: Sidelines and 9 Nbd2
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

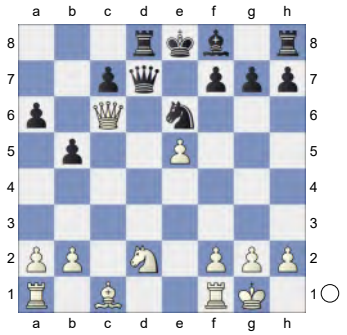


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 d4

(Diagram)

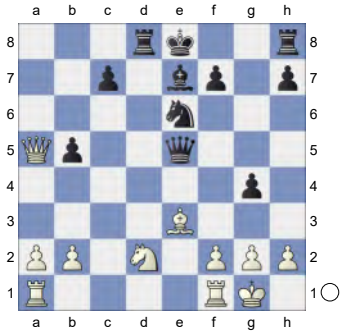


11.Bxe6 Nxe6 12.cxd4 Ncxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Qf3 Rd8 15.Qc6+ Qd7

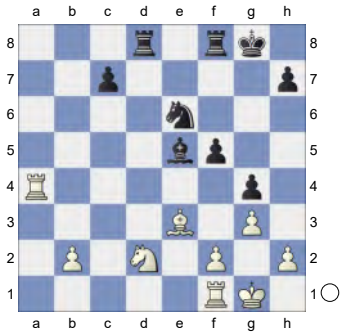


16.Qxa6 Qd5
[16...Bb4!? 17.Nb3 *(17.Qb7 Bxd2 18.Rd1 Qd5 19.Qxd5 Rxd5 20.Bxd2 Rxe5* Chess Informant Eco-N,N Survey 2006 *)* 17...Qd5=]
17.Qa5 Be7N
[17...Qxe5 18.a4 Be7 19.Nc4 Qc5 20.Qxb5+ Qxb5 21.axb5 Rb8 22.Ne5 Rxb5 23.Ra8+ Bd8 24.f4 Rd5 25.Nc6 0-0 Chess Informant Eco-N,N Survey 2000 26.f5 Bf6 27.Ra7 Nd4 28.Rxc7 Re8 29.b4 h5 30.h3 Nxf5 31.g4 hxg4 32.hxg4 Bd4+ 33.Kg2 Nh4+ 34.Kh3 Ng6 35.Rd1 Bb6 36.Rxd5 Bxc7 37.Rd7 Bb6 38.b5 Re1 39.Bd2 Rb1 40.Bb4 Rb3+ Cicak,S (2537)-Hector,J (2513) Skara 2002 CBM 91 [Hecht] 0-1 (42) 41.Kg2 Nf4+ 42.Kh1 Rh3# 0-1 (42) Cicak,S (2290)-Beckemeier, W (2365) BL 8788 1988 [ChessCalisthenics]]

18.Nf3 g5 19.Be3 g4 20.Nd2 Qxe5

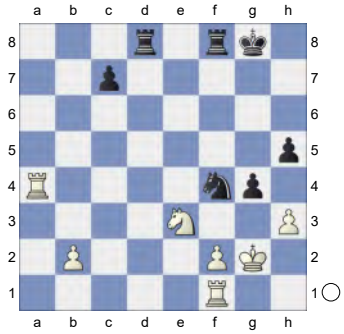


21.Qc3 -0.38/21
[21.Rfe1± 0.40/19]
21...Bd6 0.59/21
[Black should try 21...Qxc3∓ -0.38/21 22.bxc3 Rd3]
22.g3 0.08/20
[22.Qc6+± 0.59/21 Kf8 23.g3]
22...0-0= 23.a4 bxa4
[23...Qf5 keeps more tension. 24.Rfc1 bxa4 25.Rxa4 Be5]
24.Qxe5 Bxe5 25.Rxa4 f5

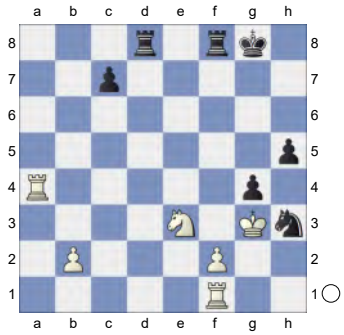


26.Nc4 Bd4 27.Kg2 -0.01/19
[27.Ra6!± 0.47/19 Bxe3 28.Nxe3]
27...h5
[27...f4 feels hotter. 28.gxf4 Nxf4+ 29.Kg3 Nd3]
28.h3 -0.42/20
[28.Ra6= 0.20/17 Rf6 29.Kh1]
28...Bxe3 -0.01/22
[28...f4∓ -0.42/20 feels stronger. 29.gxf4 Nxf4+ 30.Bxf4 Rxf4 31.hxg4 Rxg4+ 32.Kh3 Rf8]
29.Nxe3 -0.49/20
[29.fxe3= -0.01/22 Rd5 30.Ra6]

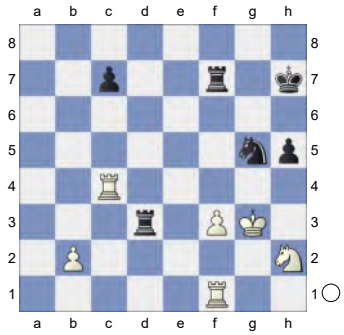
29...f4∓ 30.gxf4 Nxf4+



31.Kg3 Nxh3

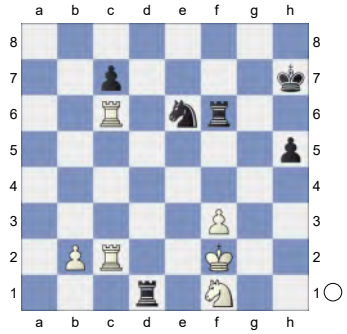


Threatens to win with ...Rf3+. **32.Nxg4 Rd3+ 33.f3 Ng5 34.Nh2 Kh7** -0.15/19
[34...Ne6∓ -0.54/18 is superior.]
35.Rc4 -0.79/21
[35.Kh4!= -0.15/19 remains equal. Rd5 36.Rf2]
35...Rf7 -0.19/21
[Black should play 35...Rg8∓ -0.79/21 Strongly threatening ...Nxf3+. 36.Kh4 *(36.Rxc7+ Kh8∓)* 36...Rd2]

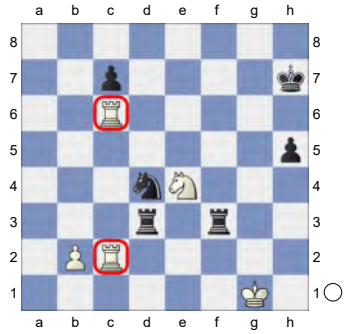


36.Rfc1 Ne6 37.R1c2 Rd1 38.Kf2 Rg7 0.00/18
[38...c5∓ -0.42/17 39.Re4 Rf6]

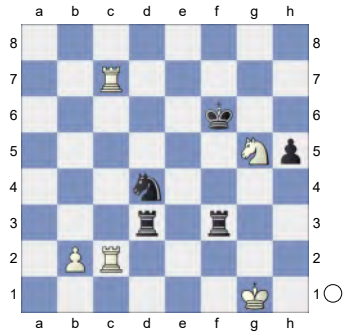
39.Nf1= The position is equal. **39...Rf7 40.Rc6 Rf6**



41.Ng3 Rd3 42.Ne4 Rfxf3+ 43.Kg1 Nd4

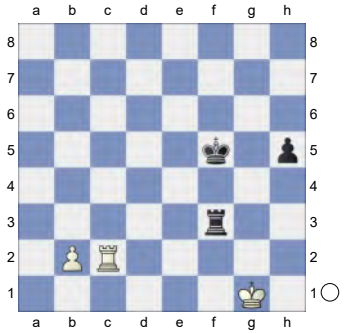


And now ...Rf4 would win. **44.Ng5+ Kg7** aiming for ...Rg3+. **45.Rxc7+ Kf6**



46.Nxf3 Nxc2 47.Rc6+ Kf5 48.Rxc2 Black must now prevent Kf2. **48...Rxf3**

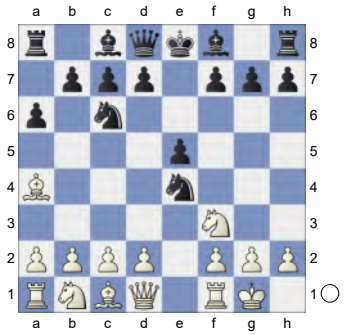
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)
½-½

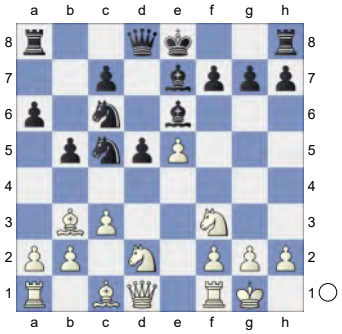
118 **C83**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2827**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2820**
43. Olympiad 2018 (8.1) 02.10.2018
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

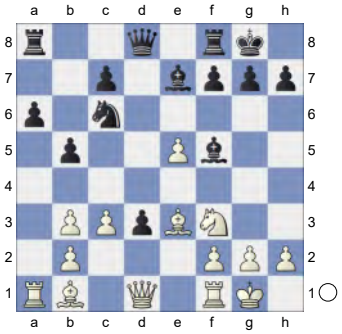


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

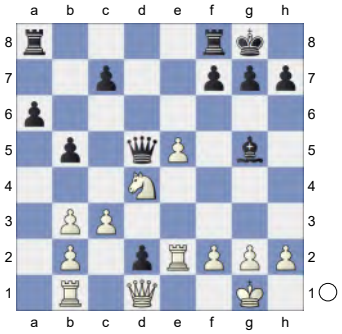
(Diagram)



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.Be3 0-0**

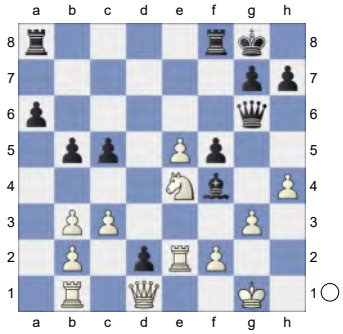


16.Bd4 Qd5!
[16...Nxd4 17.Nxd4 *(17.cxd4 c5=)* 17...Bg6 18.b4± *(18.Bxd3 Bxd3 19.Nc6 Qe8±)*]
17.Re1 d2 18.Re2 Bxb1 19.Rxb1 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bg5

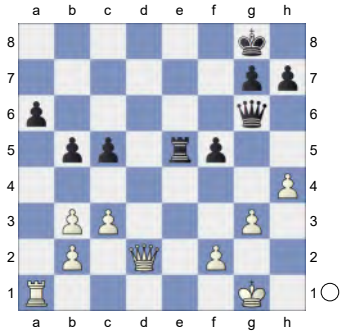


21.g3 c5 22.Nf5 Threatening f4. **22...Qd3 23.Nd6** White wants to play f4. **23...Qg6 24.h4 Bf4 25.Ne4 f5**

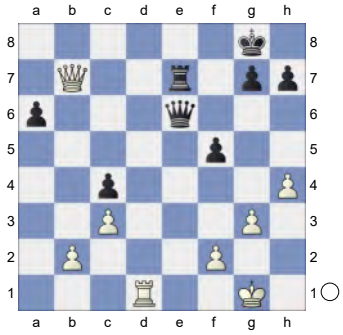
(Diagram)



26.Nxd2 Rad8 27.Ra1 Rfe8 28.Qe1 0.01/23
[28.Qc2± 0.33/22]
28...Bxd2 0.37/21
[28...Rd5!= 0.01/23 is superior.]
29.Rxd2± Rxd2 30.Qxd2 Rxe5=

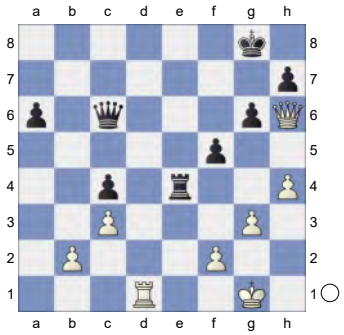


Endgame KQR-KQR **31.Qd8+ Re8 32.Qd5+ Qe6 33.Rd1 c4N** 0.93/24
[Black should try 33...Qxd5± 0.38/21 34.Rxd5 Re1+ 35.Kg2 Re2]
34.bxc4± bxc4 35.Qb7 Re7 1.24/22
[⌓35...Qe4 0.80/21 36.Qxa6 f4]

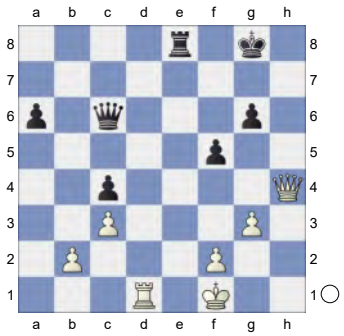


36.Rd8+ Kf7 37.Qf3 &Bianco is much more active. **37...g6 38.Qf4** Qh6 is the strong threat. **38...Qc6** (-> ...Re1+)

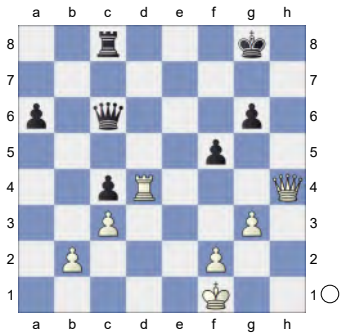
39.Rd1 0.72/20 Against Re1+
[⌓39.Qd2 1.20/22]
39...Re4 1.04/23
[⌓39...h5 0.72/20]
40.Qh6 Kg8



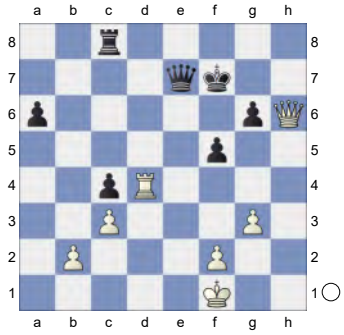
41.h5 Re8 42.hxg6 0.57/23
[42.Qd2± 1.41/21]
42...hxg6± 43.Kf1 Re6 44.Qh4 Re8



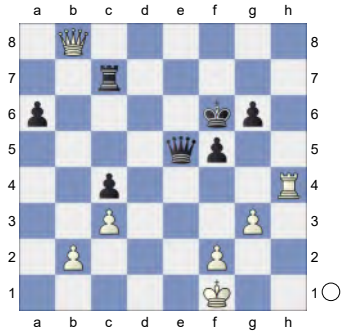
45.Rd4! Rc8 1.89/24
[45...a5± 0.98/22]



46.Qh6+- Qe6 2.58/26
[⌓46...Re8 1.94/23 47.Rh4 Qf6 48.Qh7+ Kf8 49.Rxc4 Qg7]
47.Rh4 Kf7 48.Qh7+ Kf6 49.Rd4 Qe7
50.Qh6 Black must now prevent g4.
50...Kf7? 3.69/23
[50...Rc6 1.96/21 51.Kg1 Rd6]



51.Qd2↑ 1.80/22 White is really pushing.
[⌓51.g4 3.69/23 Re8 52.Qh7+ Kf8 53.Qxg6]
51...Rc7 2.96/23
[⌓51...Ke8 1.80/22 52.Rh4 Qe5]
52.Rh4 1.67/25
[⌓52.Rd8 2.96/23 Qe4 53.Qh6 Qb1+ 54.Kg2 Qe4+ 55.Kh2]
52...Kf6 2.68/23
[52...Rd7 1.67/25 might work better. 53.Rh7+ Kg8 54.Qxd7 Qxh7 55.Qc8+ Kg7]
53.Qd4+ Qe5 54.Qb6+ Kg7 55.Qb8 Intending Qh8+ and mate.
[55.Qxa6?! Qd5±]
55...Kf6 3.27/26
[55...Qd6 2.23/26 was called for. 56.Qh8+ Kf7]



56.Qh8+ Ke6 57.Qg8+ Kf6 58.Rd4 Strongly threatening Rd8.
[Less strong is 58.Rxc4 Rxc4

59.Qxc4 a5 60.Qc6+ Ke7±]

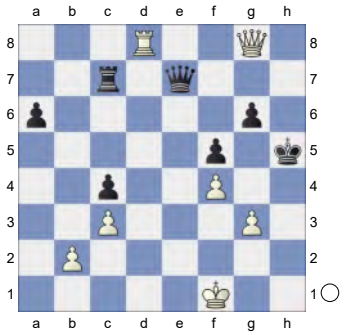
58...Qe7 59.Rd8

[Much less strong is 59.Rxc4?! Rxc4 60.Qxc4 Qb7 61.Qd4+ Kf7±]

59...Kg5? 7.51/22

[59...Rd7 1.63/24 60.Rxd7 Qxd7]

60.f4+ Kh5

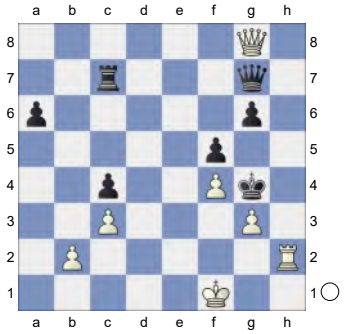


61.Rd2 White threatens Rh2+ and mate.

61...Qg7? #4/10

[61...Qf6+- 2.68/23 62.Rh2+ Kg4]

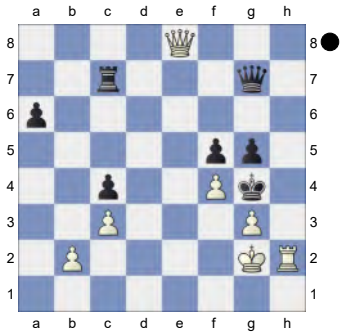
62.Rh2+ White mates. **62...Kg4**



63.Kg2! g5

[63...Qe7 64.Qxg6+]

64.Qe8



Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.41

1-0

119 **C80**

□ **Aronian,Levon** **2780**

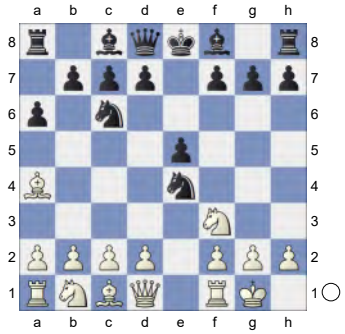
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2820**

43. Olympiad 2018 (5.1) 28.09.2018

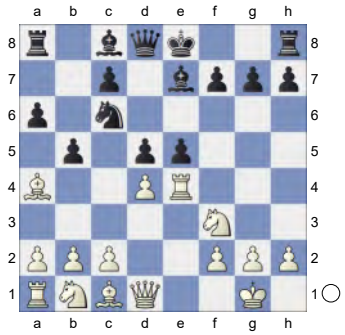
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

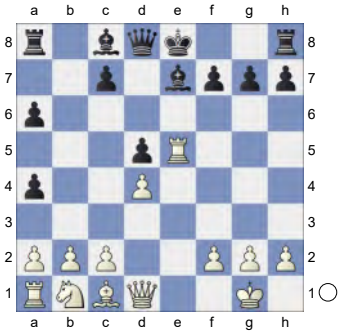


6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 Threatens to win with Bb3. **8...d5**

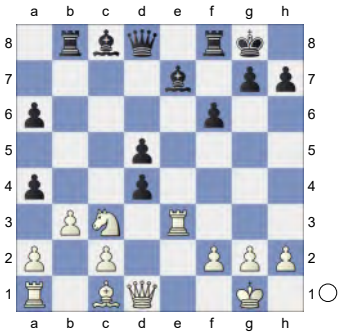


9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 White is slightly better. **10...bxa4**

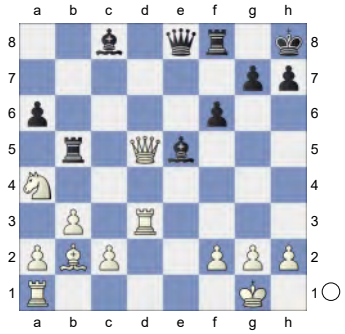
(Diagram)



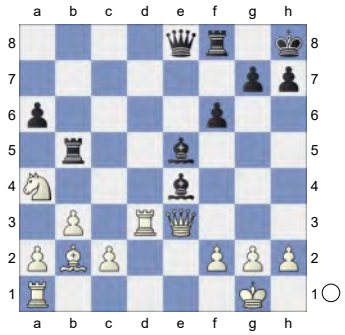
11.Qe1 f6 12.Re3
[12.Re2 Kf7 13.Nc3 Bb4 14.a3 *(14.Bd2 Bxc3 15.Bxc3 Bf5 16.Bb4 Re8 17.Rxe8 Qxe8 18.Qc3 Qd7 19.Re1 Re8 20.Rxe8 Kxe8 21.h3 Kf7 22.g4 Bg6 23.Qc5 Qd6 24.Qxd6* ½-½ (24) Nguyen,T (2634)-Janik,I (2542) Czech Republic 2022*)* 14...Ba5 15.Bd2 Bxc3 16.Bxc3 Bf5 17.Bb4 Re8 18.Rxe8 Qxe8 19.Qxe8+ Rxe8 20.Re1 Rxe1+ 21.Bxe1 Bxc2 22.Bb4 Bb3 23.g3 g5 24.Kg2 Ke6 25.f4 gxf4 26.gxf4 Kf5 Santos Ruiz,M (2583)-Vallejo Pons,F (2694) Marbella 2019 CBM 195 [Postny, Evgeny] ½-½ (32)]
12...c5 13.Qd1 0-0 14.Nc3 Rb8N
[14...a3 15.bxa3 Bf5 16.Re1 Rc8 17.Qf3 Bxc2 18.Nxd5 Re8 19.Nxe7+ Rxe7 20.Rxe7 Qxe7 21.Qc3 Bf5 22.dxc5 Qxc5 23.Qxc5 Rxc5 Chapter-Games Game 5]
15.b3 cxd4



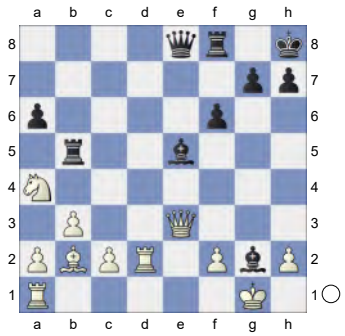
16.Qxd4 Bd6 1.23/19
[16...axb3= 0.26/19 17.axb3 *(17.Nxd5 Bd6=)* 17...Bb7]
17.Qxd5+± Kh8 18.Rd3!
[18.bxa4 Be5 19.Qxd8 Rxd8=]
18...Qe8 19.Bb2 Be5 20.Nxa4 Rb5 1.29/21
[⌓20...Bb7 0.82/22 21.Qc5 *(21.Bxe5 Bxd5 22.Bxb8 Be4∓)* 21...Rc8]



21.Qf3 Bb7 22.Qe3 Be4

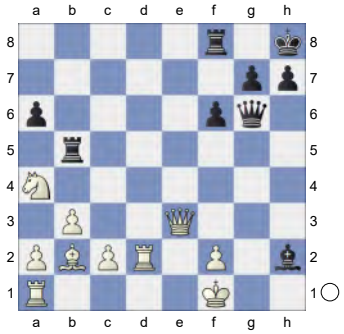


23.Rd2 Bxg2
[23...Qg6 24.g3]

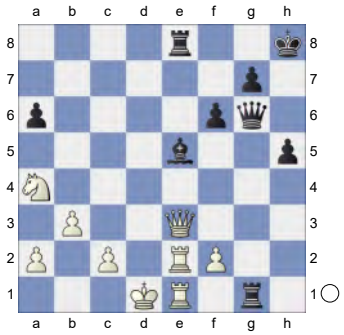


Hoping for ...Bc6. Decoy **24.Kxg2** 0.01/20
[24.f4!± 0.81/22 Bxb2 25.Qxe8 Rxe8 26.Nxb2]

24...Qg6+!= 25.Kf1 Nc3 is the strong threat. **25...Bxh2**

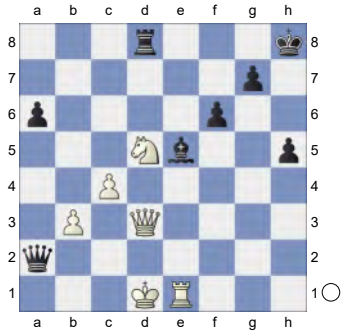


26.Re1 -0.24/23
[⌓26.Rad1 0.15/22 Rg5 27.Rd8 Rg1+ 28.Ke2 Qg4+ 29.f3 Rg2+ 30.Kf1 Rg1+ 31.Ke2 Rg2+ 32.Kf1 Rg1+ 33.Ke2]
26...Rg5! And now ...Rg1+ would win.
27.Ke2? -2.55/24
[27.Nc3!= -0.20/23 and White stays safe. Qh5 28.f3]
27...Re8-+ 28.Kd1 Rg1 29.Be5 Bxe5 Really sharp! **30.Rde2 h5** -1.18/22
[30...Rd8+-+ -2.73/23 and Black stays clearly on top. 31.Kc1 Qf5]

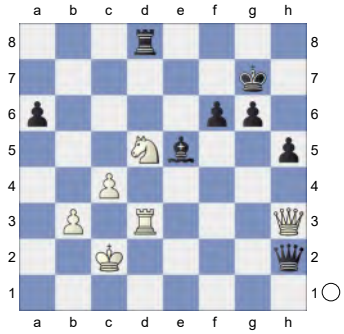


31.Qd3 -1.53/21
[⌓31.Nb2 -1.18/22]
31...Qg2 &Nero is more active. **32.Nb6 Rxe1+ 33.Rxe1 Qxf2 34.Nd5** -2.74/20
[34.Nc4∓ -1.58/21 was worth a try.]
34...Rd8 35.c4 Qxa2

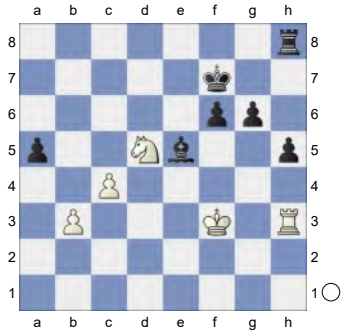
(Diagram)



36.Qf3 g6 37.Re3 Kg7 38.Qh3 -5.76/22
[⌓38.Qe4 -3.85/21]
38...Qf2 39.Rd3 Qg1+
[Not 39...Qb2? 40.Qe3-+]
40.Kc2 Qh2+

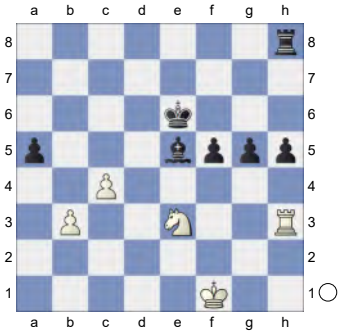


41.Qxh2 Bxh2 Endgame KRB-KRN **42.Rh3 Be5 43.Kd3 a5 44.Ke4 Kf7** Black is clearly winning. **45.Kf3 Rh8**



46.Kg2 g5 47.Ne3 Ke6 48.Kf1 -6.94/21
[⌓48.Ng4 -4.79/22]
48...f5

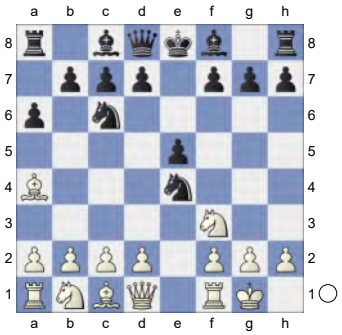
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.40/ Black=0.19 (very precise)
0-1

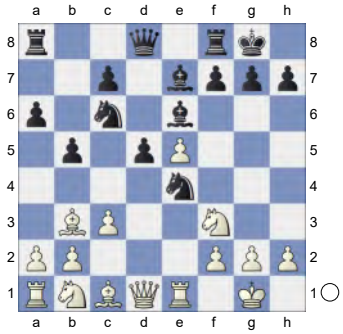
120 **C83**
□ **Yu,Yangyi** **2764**
■ **Vitiugov,Nikita** **2709**
2. Du Te Cup 2018 (5.2) 08.11.2018
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

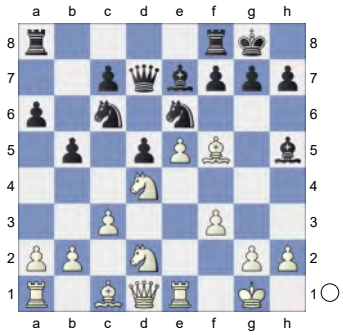


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0

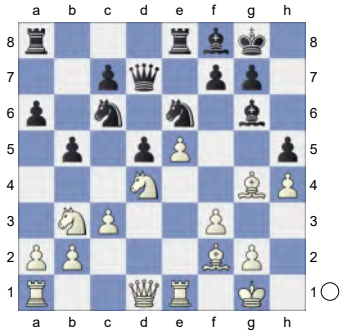
(Diagram)



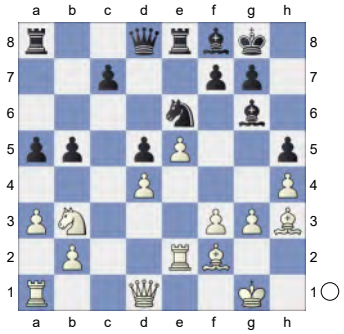
11.Nbd2 Nc5! 12.Nd4 Qd7
[12...Nxb3? 13.Nxc6! Qe8 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Nxb3+-]
[12...Nxd4 13.cxd4 Nd3 14.Re3 Nf4 15.Nf3 Bg4 16.h3 Bh5 17.Rc3 Ne6 18.g4 Bg6 19.Be3 a5 20.Bc2 Bb4 21.Rb3 f5 22.exf6 Bxc2 23.Qxc2 Qxf6 24.Ne5 c5 25.Nd7 Qf7 26.Nxf8 Rxf8 27.Qf5 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♗c4 (2789)-Buchicchio,G (2760) Jugoslavija 72/354 2018 DVD_Budapest Gambit [Dublin Evening Mail 15/2/1902; Harding] 0-1 (40)]
13.Bc2 Bg4N
[13...f6 14.Nxe6 Nxe6 15.exf6 Rxf6 16.Nf3 Raf8 17.Qd3 g6 18.Be3 Nf4 19.Bxf4 Rxf4 20.Re2 Bc5 21.b4 Bb6 22.Bb3 Ne7 23.Rae1 R8f7 24.Ne5 Rxf2 25.Re3 Bxe3 26.Qxe3 Qd6 27.Nxf7 Rxf7 28.Rd1 Brodie,M (1388)-Braun,C (1947) Match 1969 [Charles Braun] 0-1 (39)]
14.f3 The position is equal. **14...Bh5 15.Bf5 Ne6**



16.N2b3 Rfd8 0.50/18
[16...Ncxd4= 0.05/19 is more appropriate. 17.cxd4 a5]
17.Be3± Bf8
[17...Nxe5? 18.Bf4! c5 19.Rxe5+-]
18.h4 Re8 0.72/20
[18...a5± 0.33/17 deserves consideration.]
19.Bf2 Bg6 20.Bg4 Strongly threatening h5. **20...h5**

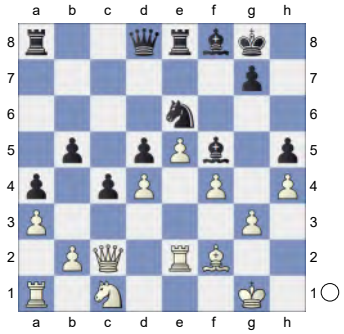


21.Bh3 Ncxd4 22.cxd4 Bb4 23.Re2 Qd8 1.04/22
[23...a5± 0.64/17]
24.a3± Bf8 25.g3 Inhibits Nf4. **25...a5**

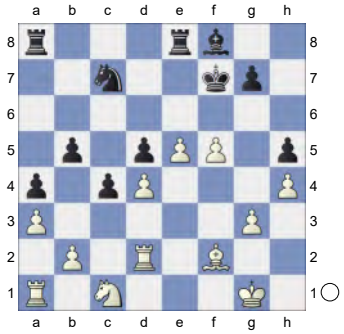


26.f4! a4 27.Nc1 f5 28.Qd3 c5 2.12/21
[28...Qc8± 1.14/21 29.Qxb5 Rd8]
29.Bxf5+- c4 30.Qc2 Bxf5

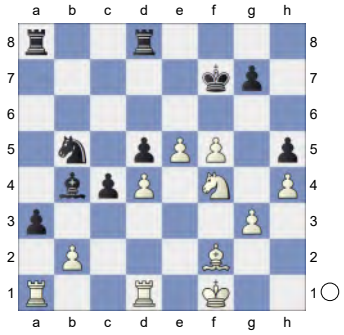
(Diagram)



31.Qxf5 Qb6 32.Qg6 Threatens to win with f5. **32...Qa7 33.Rd2** Black must now prevent f5.
[33.Qxh5?! Nxd4 34.Kh2 Bc5]
33...Qf7 34.Qxf7+ Kxf7 35.f5 Nc7

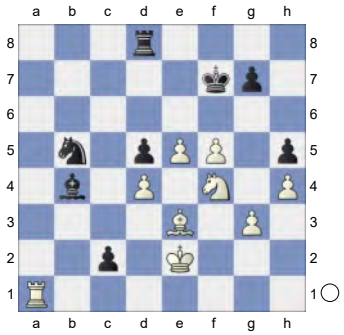


36.Ne2 And now Nf4 would win. **36...b4**
37.axb4 Bxb4 38.Rdd1 Nb5 2.32/19
[38...Reb8± 1.35/18 39.Kg2 Kg8]
39.Nf4 Red8 40.Kf1
[40.Nxh5 c3]
40...a3 2.33/19
[40...c3± 1.38/20 was worth a try.]

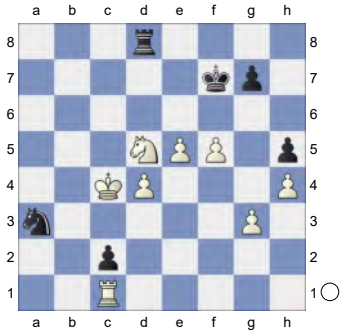


41.bxa3 Rxa3 3.03/19
[41...Nxa3 2.12/18 keeps fighting. 42.Nxh5 c3]

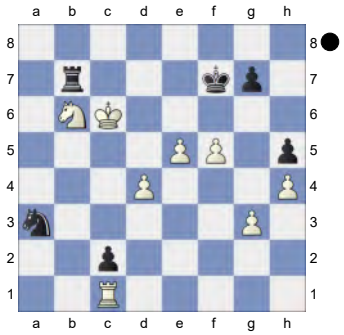
42.Rxa3
[Weaker is 42.Nxh5 c3±]
42...Nxa3 43.Ra1
[Don't do 43.Nxh5?! c3+-]
43...c3 44.Ke2
[Less strong is 44.Nxh5 c2±]
44...c2 45.Be3 Nb5



46.Kd3 Rc8 47.Nxd5 Ba3 48.Bc1 Bxc1 49.Rxc1 Rd8 50.Kc4 Na3+



51.Kc5 White is clearly winning.
51...Rb8 9.74/22
[⌓51...Rc8+ 4.86/23 52.Kb4 Nb1 53.e6+ Ke8]
52.Nb6 Rb7 53.Kc6

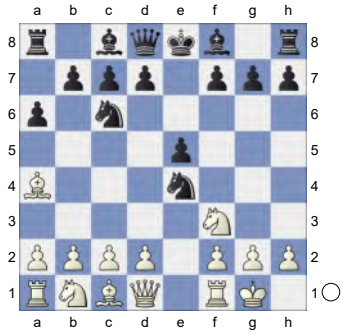


Weighted Error Value: White=0.07

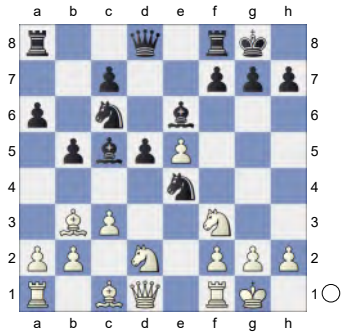
(flawless) /Black=0.21 (precise)
1-0

121 **C82**
□ **Vachier Lagrave,Maxime** **2779**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2801**
51. GM 2018 Biel SUI (8.1) 30.07.2018
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

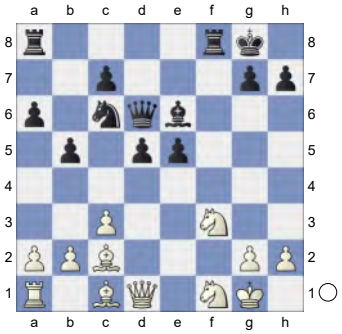


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0



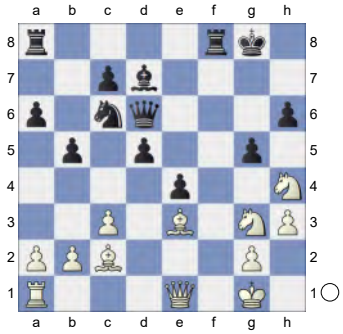
11.Bc2 Nxf2 12.Rxf2 f6 13.Nf1 Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 fxe5 ...e4 is the strong threat.
15.Kg1 Qd6

(Diagram)

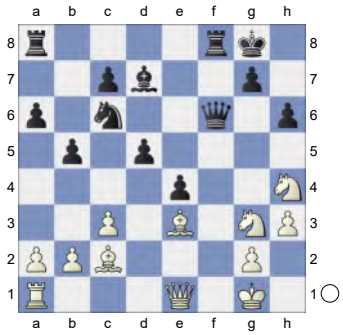


16.Ng3 -0.12/20
[⌓16.Be3 0.29/18 Bf5 17.Bb3 Rad8 18.Qe1 Na5 19.Qf2 Nb7 20.Re1 Kh8 21.Qg3 Rde8 22.Bf2 Be4 23.N1d2 Bxf3 24.Nxf3 e4 25.Qxd6 Nxd6 26.Nd4 Nc4 27.Bxc4 bxc4 28.b4 cxb3 29.axb3 a5 30.Nc6 Ra8 31.Ra1 Carlsen,M (2859)-So,W (2760) chess24.com INT 2022 1-0 (40)]
[16.Bg5 e4 17.Nd4 Nxd4 18.Qxd4 c5 19.Qd2 h6 20.Bh4 Qc6 21.Re1 Ra7 22.b4 Raf7 23.Bb3 cxb4 24.cxb4 Qb6+ 25.Ne3 Kh8 26.Rd1 d4 27.Qxd4 Qxd4 28.Rxd4 Bxb3 29.axb3 Rc8 30.h3 Rc3 Nguyen,T (2653)-Shirov,A (2668) Prague 2023 0-1 (42)]
16...h6N
[16...Bg4 17.h3 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Ne7 19.Qd3 Ng6 Line Nbd2-The Dilworth Attack [GM Mihail Marin]]
17.Qe1 White has compensation.
17...Bg4 0.37/20
[17...e4!= -0.14/18 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 c5]
18.Nh4± e4 19.h3! Bd7 20.Be3 Qf6
[20...g5?

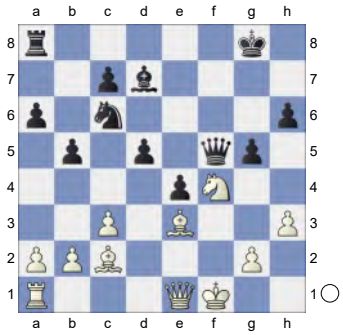
(Diagram)



21.Nxe4! dxe4 22.Rd1!±]

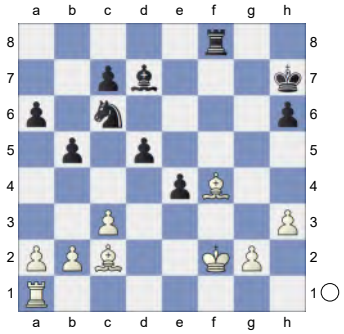


21.Nh5! Qe5 22.Nf4 0.01/20 **Rxf4= 23.Ng6 Rf1+! 24.Kxf1**
[24.Qxf1 Qg3 25.Rd1 Qxe3+ 26.Qf2 Qxf2+ 27.Kxf2 Be6]
24...Qf5+ 25.Nf4 g5

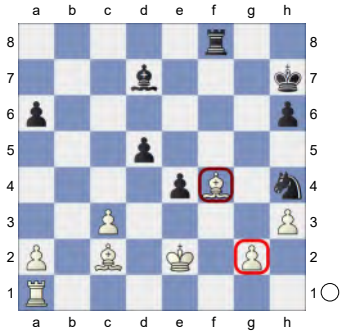


Pin **26.Qg3 Kh7** Threatens to win with ...Rf8. **27.Ke2** aiming for Nxd5! **27...gxf4 28.Qxf4** The board is on fire. **28...Qxf4 29.Bxf4** A strong pair of Bishops. **29...Rg8 30.Kf2 Rf8**

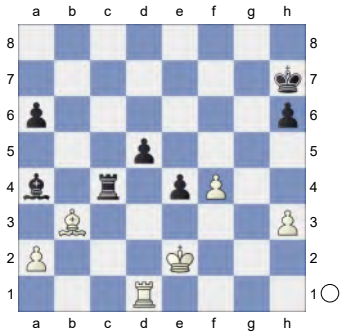
(Diagram)



31.Ke3 Ne7 And now ...d4+! would win. **32.Bxc7 Nf5+ 33.Ke2 b4!** Strongly threatening ...Bb5+. **34.Bf4 bxc3 35.bxc3 Nh4!**

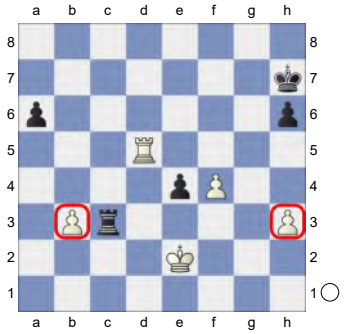


36.g3 Ng2 37.c4 Nxf4+ 38.gxf4 Rc8 [Don't do 38...Bxh3 39.cxd5 Rxf4 40.Ke3±] **39.Rd1 Rxc4 40.Bb3 Ba4**



41.Rxd5 Bxb3 42.axb3 Rc3

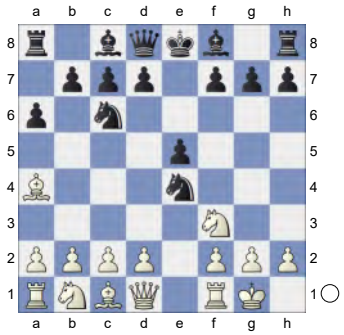
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)
½-½

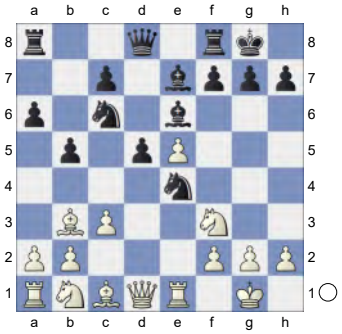
122 **C83**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2843**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2808**
6. Chess 2018 (8.1) 06.06.2018
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

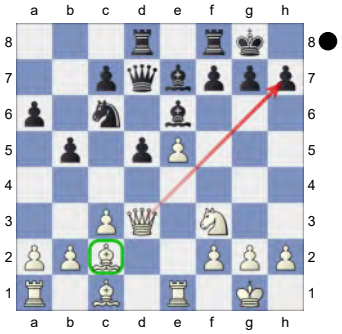


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0

(Diagram)

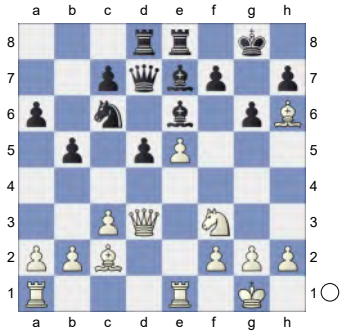


11.Nbd2 Nxd2 12.Qxd2 Qd7
[12...Na5 13.Bc2 c5 14.Qd3 g6 15.Bh6 Re8 16.Qe3 Nc4 17.Qc1 Bg4 18.Ng5 f6 19.Qf4 fxg5 20.Qxg4 Qc8 21.e6 Qd8 22.h4 Ra7 23.h5 gxh5 24.Qf5 Bf6 25.Rad1 Nb6 26.Re3 Qe7 27.Rde1 Werle,A-Lundin,E Stockholm 1943 EXT 2020 [TFS] 1-0 (31)]
13.Qd3 Rad8N White is slightly better.
[13...Rfd8 14.Bc2 g6 15.Nd4 Nxd4 16.cxd4 c5 17.Qe3 Rac8 18.Bd3 cxd4 19.Qxd4 Bc5 20.Qf4 d4 21.Bd2 Bc4 22.Be4 Bd5 23.Bd3 Qe6 24.b3 Qe7 25.Qh6 Bb4 26.Bg5 Qf8 27.Qh4 Bxe1 28.Bh6 Baird,J-Pollock,W USA-06.Congress New York 1889 0-1 (36)]
14.Bc2

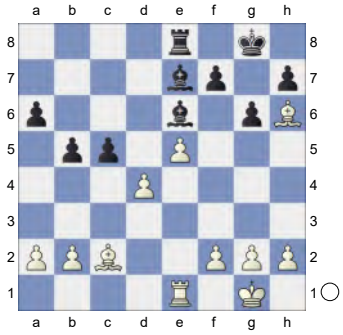


g6 15.Bh6 Rfe8

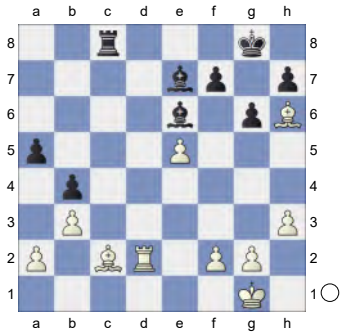
(Diagram)



16.Rad1 d4 0.75/20
[16...Na5± 0.34/18]
17.Nxd4
[17.Bb3 looks sharper. Bxb3 18.axb3 Qd5 19.cxd4 Rd7 20.Re3]
17...Nxd4 18.Qxd4
[18.cxd4 feels hotter. c5 19.dxc5 Qc6 20.Qg3]
18...Qxd4 19.Rxd4 Rxd4 20.cxd4 c5

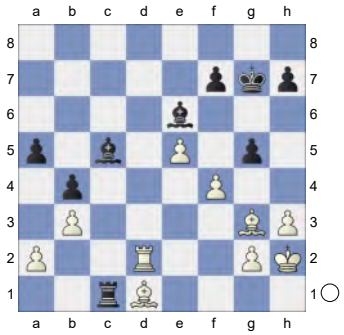


21.dxc5 Bxc5 22.b3! a5 23.h3 b4 24.Rd1 Rc8 1.22/22
[Black should play 24...Bb6 0.78/21]
25.Rd2 0.79/21
[White should try 25.Be4 1.22/22]
25...Be7

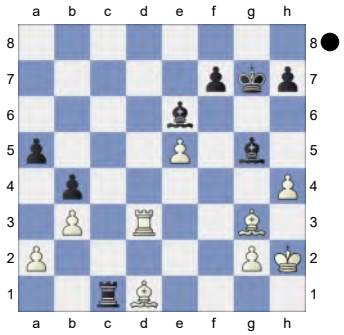


26.Bd1 Rc5! 27.Bf4 g5 28.Bg3

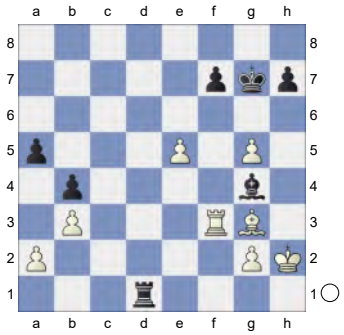
-0.01/23
[28.Be3± 0.37/23 was preferrable. Rxe5 29.Rc2]
28...Kg7 29.f4 -0.34/23
[29.Bh5= 0.01/21]
29...Rc1!∓ 30.Kh2 The position is equal.
30...Bc5



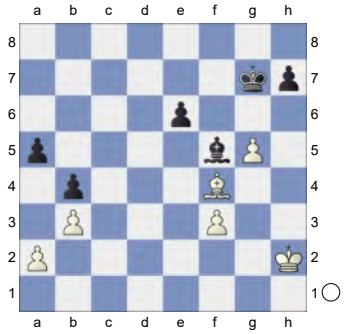
Threatens to win with ...Be3. **31.fxg5 Be3** Inhibits Bf4. **32.Rd3 Bxg5 33.h4**



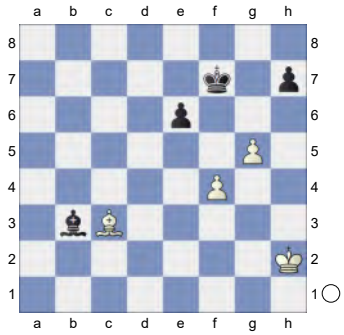
Bf5! 34.Rf3
[34.Rd6 Be3]
34...Bg4 35.hxg5 Black must now prevent Rxf7+! **35...Rxd1=**



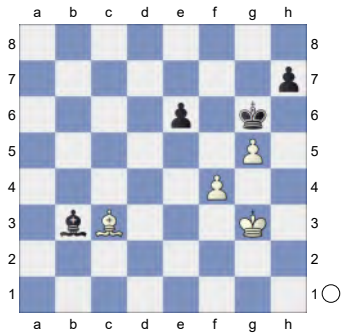
Endgame KRB-KRB **36.Rf2 Be6 37.Bf4 Rd3 38.Rf3 Rxf3 39.gxf3** KB-KB **39...Bf5 40.e6 fxe6**



41.Bc7 Bb1 42.Bxa5 Bxa2 43.Bxb4 Bxb3 44.Bc3+ Kg6 45.f4 Kf7



46.Kg3 Kg6 47.Be5 Kf7 48.Bc3 Kg6 49.Be5 Kf7 50.Bc3 Kg6

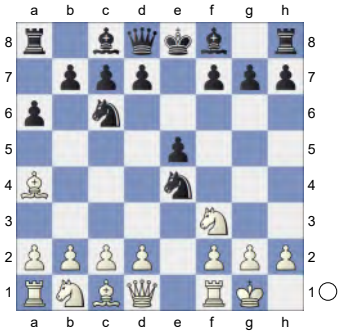


Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

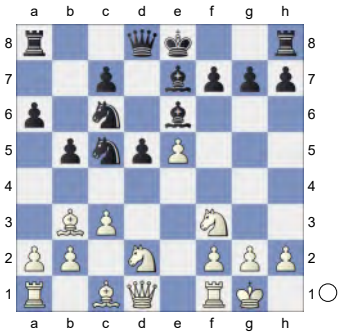
123 **C83**
□ **Van Foreest,Jorden** **2707**
■ **Madaminov,Mukhiddin** **2484**
Qatar Masters op (8) 19.10.2023
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7

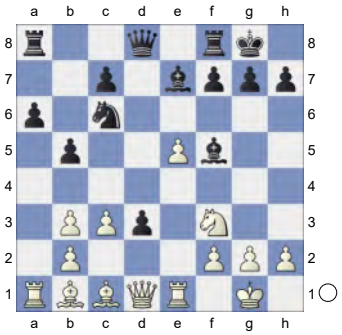
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



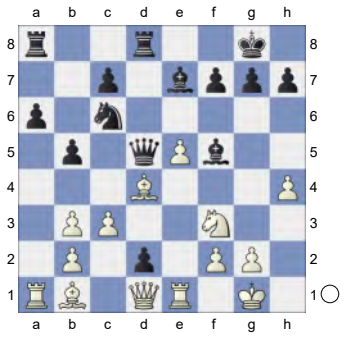
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Nbd2 Nc5



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.Re1 0-0**

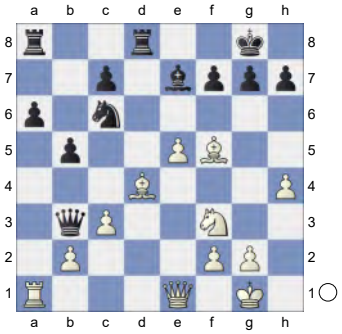


16.Be3 Qd5 17.Bd4 Rfd8 is now debated instead of 17...d2. wird nun anstelle von 17...d2 disktutiert.
[17...Nxd4 18.Nxd4 d2 19.Bxf5!± *(19.Qxd2 Bxb1 20.Rexb1 c5±)*]
18.h4 18.Bxd3 is vanishing. 18.Lxd3 scheint zu verschwinden.
18...d2 0.43/20
[18...Bg6 19.b4 d2 20.Qxd2 Bxb1 21.Raxb1 Bxb4 22.Qf4 Be7 23.e6 fxe6 24.Qg4 Nxd4 25.Nxd4 Bf6 26.Nxe6 Rd7 27.Re3 h5 28.Qg6 Rf7 29.Rbe1 Rc8 30.Nf4 Qd7 31.Qxh5 Re7 32.Nd5 Rf7 33.Rd1 Caruana,F (2842)-Alekseenko,K (2698) Ekaterinburg 2020 CBM 202 [Krasenkow,Michal] 1-0 (35)]



19.Bxf5!± dxe1Q+
[19...Nxd4 20.Nxd4! dxe1Q+ 21.Qxe1±]
[19...dxe1N 20.Qxe1]
20.Qxe1 Qxb3
[20...Nxd4 21.Nxd4 c5 *(21...Bxh4? 22.Be4+-)* 22.Be4± Qd7 23.Nc6 Bxh4 24.Bxh7+ Kxh7 25.Qe4+ Kg8 26.g3 Be7 27.e6 fxe6 28.Kg2 Rdc8 29.Nxe7+ Qxe7 30.Rh1 Qf6 31.Rh5 g6 32.Rh4 e5 33.Qd5+ Kf8 34.Kh2 Ra7 35.f4 Rf7 36.Kg1 Kg7 37.Qh1 Novik (2604)-Stein,A (2402) cor 2023 Chess Today CT-827 [John Watson] 0-1 (39)]

(Diagram)



21.Qe2N

[Vorgänger: 21.Qe4 -0.18/22 21.e6 0.52 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 -1.17/22 *(22.cxd4∓ -0.70/20 g6 23.Qg4)* 22...Qxb2∓ 23.Rf1 -1.24/21 *(⌓23.Bxh7+ -0.92/21 Kh8 24.Rf1)* 23...Qxc3 24.Nc6 Kf8 25.Bxh7 a5 Threatens to win with ...a4. 26.h5 a4 0.01/21 *(*Black should play *26...Re8∓* -0.78/20 ...Bd6! is the strong threat. *27.Nxe7 Kxe7)* 27.h6= gxh6 aiming for ...a3. 28.Nxe7 Kxe7 ½-½ Svane,R (2613)-Wagner,D (2581) Magdeburg DSB Squad 2021 (6) 29.Qh4+ Ke8 30.Qf6 Rab8 31.Qh8+ Ke7 32.Qf6+ Ke8 33.Bg6 fxg6 34.Qxg6+ Kf8 35.Qxh6+ Kg8 36.Qg5+ Kf8 37.Rc1 Qd2 38.Qf6+ Ke8 39.Qe6+ Kf8 40.Qf6+ Ke8 41.Qe6+ Kf8 42.Qf5+ Ke7 43.Rxc7+ Rd7 Svane,R (2613)-Wagner,D (2581) Magdeburg 2021 Chess Informant 148 [Perunovic,Milos] ½-½ (49) 44.Qf6+ Ke8 45.Qh8+ Ke7 46.Qh4+ Ke8 47.Qh8+ Ke7 48.Qf6+ Ke8 49.Qh8+ ½-½ (49) Wirsching,A (2613)-Joseph,F (2581) Reykjavik 2021 CBM 048 Extra [Nyback/Meyer, CD]]

[21.h5 g6 22.Be4 Qe6 23.g3 a5 24.Qe3 a4 25.Kg2 Ra6 26.Qh6 Bf8 27.Qf4 Chapter-Games Game 3]

21...g6 **22.Bb1** Hoping for Ba2.

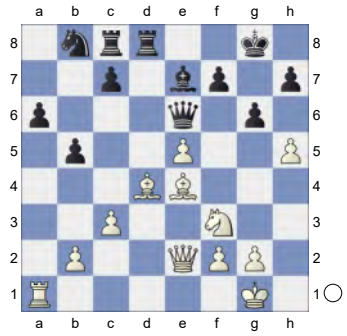
22...Qc4 **23.Bd3** **Qe6** **24.Be4** -0.42/20

[24.h5= -0.03/18]

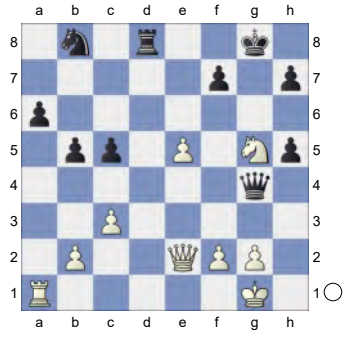
24...Rac8 -0.01/21

[24...Nxd4∓ -0.42/20 25.cxd4 c6]

25.h5= **Nb8**



26.Bb7 **c5** Against b4. White must now prevent ...Rc7. **27.Bxc8** **Qxc8** **28.Be3** **gxh5** **29.Bg5** **Bxg5** **30.Nxg5** **Qg4**



31.Qe3 White has compensation.

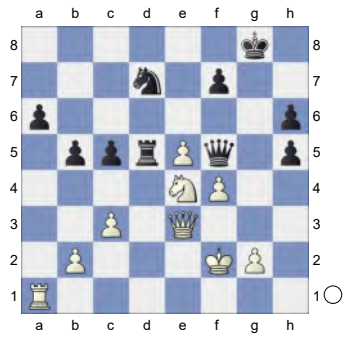
31...Rd5 **32.f4→** White goes for the king. **32...h6** **33.Ne4** **Nd7** 1.57/21

[⌓33...Rd1+ 1.12/22 34.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 35.Kh2 Nd7]

34.Kf2 0.47/23

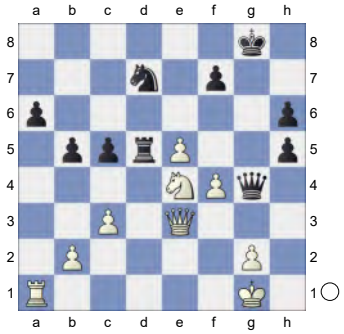
[34.Qf3± 1.57/21]

34...Qf5!±

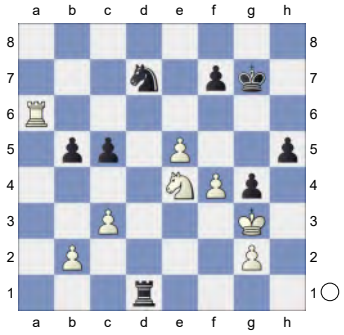


Strongly threatening ...Nxe5. **35.Kg1**

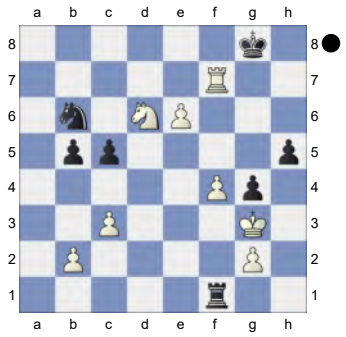
-0.01/17 &Bianco is more active.
[35.Rxa6 Nxe5 36.Nf6+ Kg7 37.Ne8+ *(37.Qg3+? Ng4+ 38.Nxg4 hxg4-+)* 37...Kg8 38.Nf6+ Kg7 39.Ne8+ *(39.Qg3+? Ng4+ 40.Nxg4 hxg4-+)* 39...Kh7 40.Nf6+ Kg7∓]
[35.Qf3!± 0.80/20]
35...Qg4=



36.Qg3 0.60/20
[36.Qf3± 1.51/20]
36...Kh7? 2.14/22 This costs Black the game.
[36...Qxg3± 0.60/20 37.Nxg3 Nb8]
37.Qxg4+-
[But not 37.Rxa6 c4 38.Kf2 Rd3 39.Qxg4 hxg4]
37...hxg4 38.Rxa6 Endgame KRN-KRN **38...h5 39.Kf2 Kg7?** 3.19/20
[39...h4 1.61/22 40.Rd6 Rxd6 41.Nxd6 Kg8]
40.Kg3 Rd1



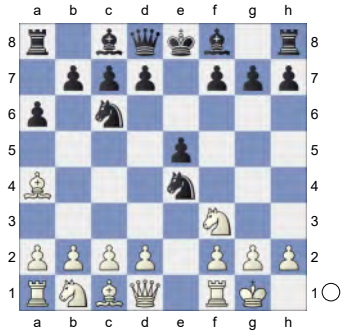
41.Nd6 Rf1 5.00/21
[41...Nf8 3.26/20 might work better. 42.Ra7 *(42.Nxb5 Rd2+-)* 42...Kg8]
42.Ra7 White is clearly winning.
42...Nb6 7.70/24
[⌓42...Nxe5 4.56/19 43.fxe5 Kg6]
43.Rxf7+ Kg8 44.e6



Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.27 (precise)
1-0

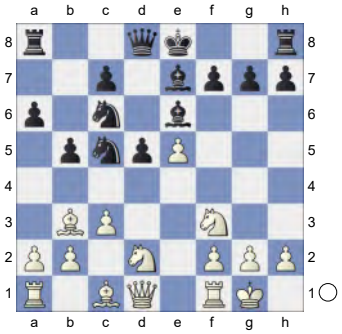
124 **C83**
□ **Puranik,Abhimanyu** **2618**
■ **Blomqvist,Erik** **2511**
Fagernes Chess International 2024 | GM..
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

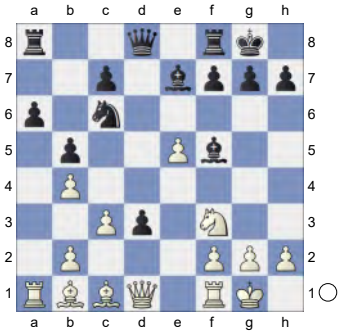


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

(Diagram)



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.b4 0-0**



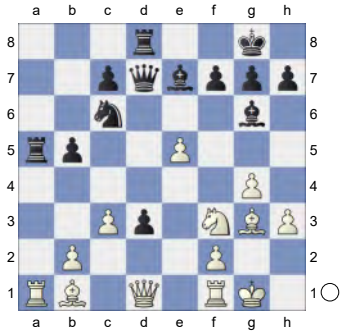
16.h3 Qd7 17.Bf4 Rfd8 18.g4 Bg6 19.Bg3 a5N

[19...h5 20.Re1 *(20.Nd2 hxg4 21.hxg4 Nxb4 22.cxb4 Bxb4 23.Ba2 c5 24.e6 fxe6 25.Nf3 c4 26.Ne5 Qe8 27.Kg2 Rd5 28.f3 Rad8 29.Rh1 Bd6 30.Qe1 d2 31.Qe3 Bc2 32.Rad1 Bxd1 33.Rxd1 Bxe5 34.Bxe5 Rd3* Chapter-Games Game 2 (58)) 20...d2 Rengifo Blancas,R-N, N Radebeul GER 2017 Inf 68 [Adly, Ahmed]]

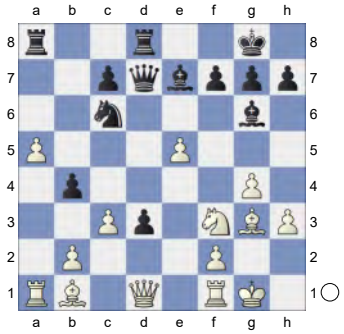
[19...Kh8 20.Re1 Qc8 21.Nd2 a5 22.bxa5 Rxa5 23.Rxa5 Nxa5 24.f4 f5 25.exf6 Bxf6 26.Ba2 Nc4 27.Bxc4 bxc4 28.g5 Qxh3 29.Qf3 Bh5 30.Qf2 Be2 31.gxf6 gxf6 32.Qg2 Qe6 33.Kh2 Rg8 34.Ra1 Hinteregger,A (2752)-Deslandes,P (2808) USSR 2016 Telechess CBM 89 [Runting; Marin] ½-½ (46)]

20.bxa5 b4

[20...Rxa5



21.e6! *(21.Rxa5 Nxa5 22.e6 fxe6±)* 21...fxe6 22.Rxa5 Nxa5 23.Ne5±]



21.a6! Qc8 0.38/19

[21...Qd5= 0.05/17 should be considered.]

22.Qa4± Nb8 23.a7↑ White fights for an advantage.

[23.cxb4? Rxa6 24.Qa3 Rxa3-+]

23...Qb7 24.Nd4 e6 is the strong threat.

[24.axb8Q? Rdxb8 25.Qb3 Rxa1-+]

24...Bc5 2.07/22 This move loses the game for Black.

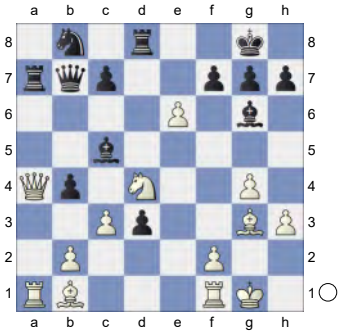
[24...c5± 0.84/17 is a better defense. 25.Nb5 *(25.axb8R? Rdxb8 26.Qb3 Rxa1-+)* 25...Nc6]

25.e6+-

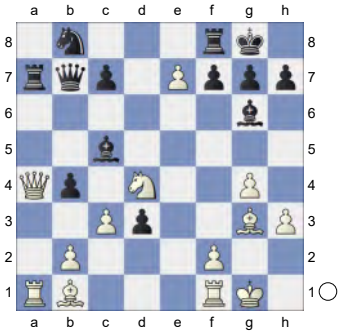
[25.axb8R Rdxb8 26.Qc6 Rxa1 27.Qxc5 bxc3∓]

25...Rxa7? 3.88/22

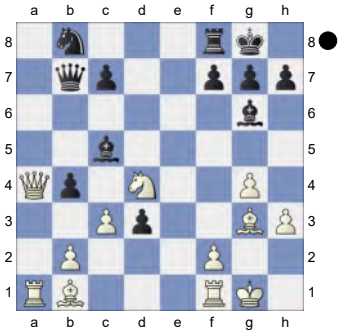
[25...fxe6 2.05/18 might work better. 26.Nxe6 *(26.axb8R Rdxb8 27.Qd7 Rxa1∓)* 26...Rxa7]



26.e7! White is winning. **26...Rf8**



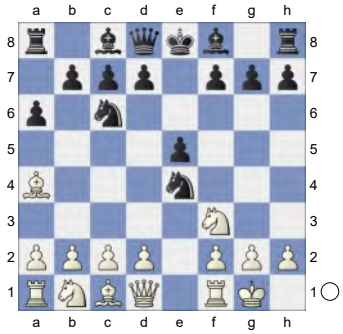
27.e8Q The board is on fire. **27...Rxa4**
[27...Bxd4 28.cxd4]
28.Qxa4



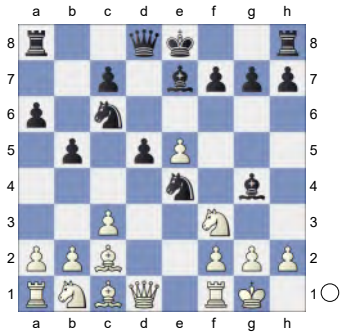
Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.20 (precise)
1-0

125 **C83**
□ **Maurizzi,Marc Andria** **2617**
■ **Dronavalli,Harika** **2503**
Sharjah | Masters (2) 15.05.2024
[Kitty KaT]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

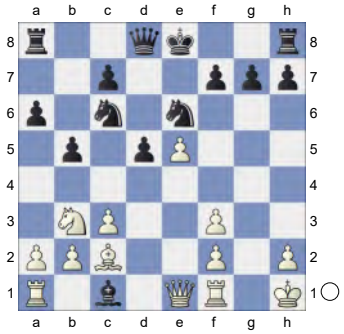


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Bc2 Bg4

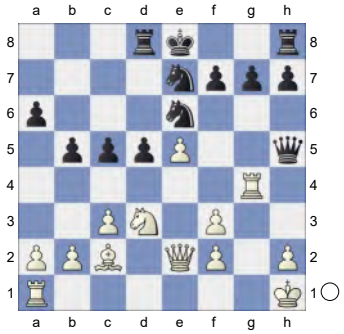


11.Qe1 Nc5 12.Nbd2 Ne6 13.Nb3
[13.Kh1 Bh5 14.Nb3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Bg5 16.Rg1 Bxc1 17.Nxc1 Qh4 18.Rg4 Qh5 19.Nd3 0-0 20.Qe2 f5 21.exf6 Rxf6 22.f4 Rh6 23.f3 Rf8 24.Qf2 Rff6 25.Re1 Qf7 26.Qg3 Rh5 27.a4 Rfh6 Firouzja,A (2760)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2747) Toronto, Canada 2024 [Harry Grieve] ½-½ (39)]
13...Bxf3 14.gxf3 Bg5 Against f4. The position is equal. **15.Kh1! Bxc1N**
[15...Bf4 16.Bxf4 Nxf4 17.Qe3 Qg5

18.Rg1 Qxe5 19.Qxe5+ Nxe5 20.Rae1 f6 21.Rxg7 Kf8 22.Rxc7 Rg8 23.Bxh7 Rg5 24.Nd4 Re8 25.Rg1 Rxg1+ 26.Kxg1 Nc4 27.h4 Nd2 28.Kh2 Nf1+ 29.Kg1 Re1 30.Bf5 Illyin Zhenevsky-Ibragimov,I Hamburgo 1922 [01: Active Bishop] ½-½]

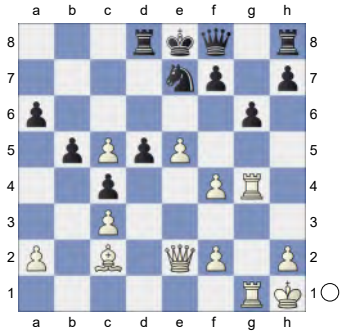


16.Nxc1 Qh4 17.Nd3 Rd8 18.Rg1 Ne7 19.Rg4! Qh5 20.Qe2 c5

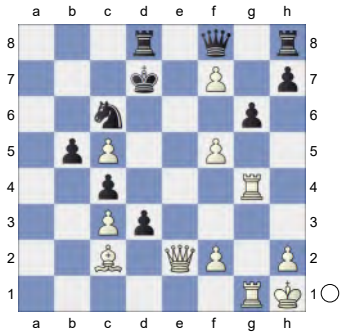


21.b4 c4 0.04/20
[21...cxb4∓ -0.34/20 22.cxb4 0-0]
22.Nc5= Nxc5 0.36/19
[22...0-0∓ -0.33/18]
23.bxc5± Qh6 24.Rag1 g6 25.f4! Qf8 1.15/17
[Black should play 25...Rc8± 0.59/18]

(Diagram)

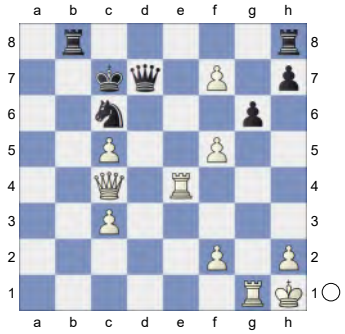


26.a4 -0.01/19
[26.f5!± 1.15/17 Black must now prevent e6. gxf5 27.Rg5]
26...Nc6 0.75/19
[26...d4= -0.01/19 27.cxd4 *(27.axb5? d3-+)* 27...Nc6]
27.axb5
[27.f5!?]
27...axb5 28.f5 And now e6 would win.
28...d4 ...d3 is the strong threat. **29.e6** aiming for exf7+. **29...d3?** 2.92/22 This move loses the game for Black.
[Black should try 29...Qxc5± 0.51/19 30.exf7+ *(30.fxg6 fxg6 31.Rg5 Qb6∓)* 30...Kf8 31.cxd4 *(31.fxg6 hxg6 32.Rxg6 Qe5∓)* 31...Nxd4]
30.exf7+- Kd7

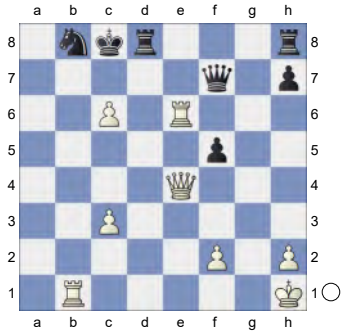


31.Bxd3 cxd3 32.Qxd3+ Kc7 33.Qxb5 Qb6+ would kill now. Really sharp! **33...Rb8** Inhibits Qb6+. **34.Qc4 Qe7**
[34...Ne5? 35.Qf4 Qxc5 36.Re1 Qd5+ 37.Kg1+-]
35.Re4
[Weaker is 35.fxg6 hxg6 36.Rxg6

(36.Qf4+ Qe5±) 36...Qe5+-]
35...Qd7

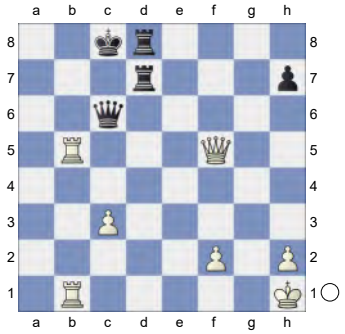


36.Re6 Rbd8? 10.70/22
[36...Rhf8 2.97/19 37.fxg6 hxg6 38.Qf4+ *(38.Rgxg6 Nd8±)* 38...Kc8]
37.Qf4+ Kc8 38.Qe4 Nb8 39.c6 Qxf7 40.Rb1 gxf5

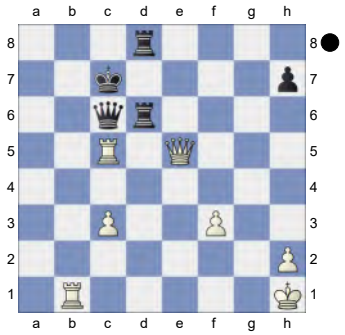


41.Qe5 Qc7 42.Qxf5 Intending Rf6+ and mate. **42...Nd7 43.cxd7+ Rxd7 44.Reb6** 18.68/21
[⌓44.Ra6 #8/18 Qb7+ 45.Rxb7 Kxb7 46.Qb5+ Kc8 47.Ra8+ Kc7 48.Qc5+ Kb7 49.Ra7+ Kb8 50.Qb6+ Kc8 51.Ra8#]
44...Rhd8 45.R6b5 21.51/24
[⌓45.Qe6 #13/22 h5 46.Rc6 Qxc6+ 47.Qxc6+ Rc7 48.Qa8+ Kd7 49.Rd1+ Ke8 50.Qxd8+ Kf7 51.Qxc7+ Kg6 52.Qe7 h4 53.Rg1+ Kf5 54.Rg5+ Kf4 55.Qe3#]
45...Qc6+

(Diagram)



46.f3 White threatens Rb8+ and mate.
46...Kc7 47.Qe5+ Rd6 48.Rc5

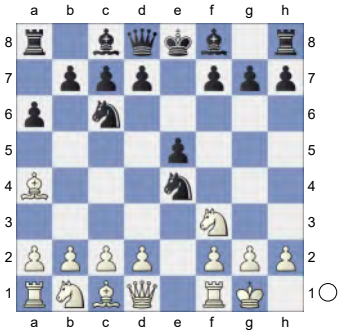


Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=1.03
1-0

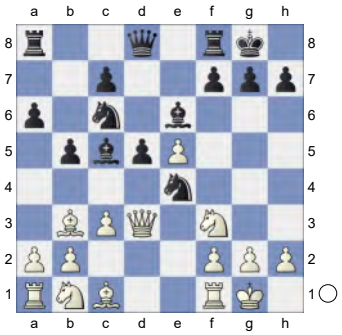
126 **C82**
□ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2794**
■ **Sethuraman,Sandeep** **2617**
chess.com IoM Masters (6.6) 28.09.2017
[Kitty Kat]

C82: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 without 9... Be7
Yusupov,A: '44/408 ' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**

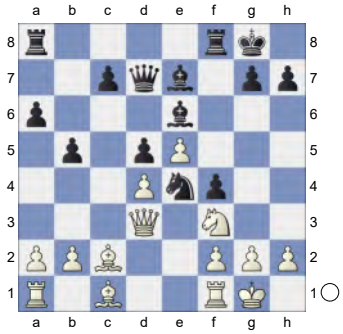
(Diagram)



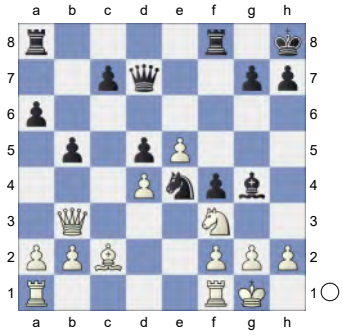
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 10.Qd3 0-0



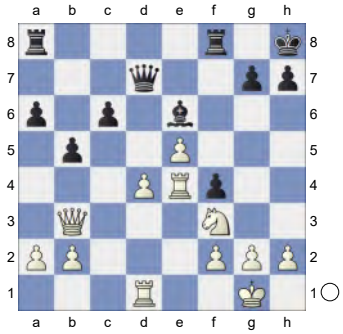
11.Nbd2 f5 12.Bc2
[12.exf6 Nxf6 13.a4 Bf7 *(13...Rb8 14.axb5 axb5 15.Ng5 Ne5 16.Qg3 Qd6 17.Bc2 Bb6 18.Nb3 Ne4 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Nxe4 Qc6 21.Ned2 Bd5 22.Qxe5 Rbe8 23.Nd4 Rxe5 24.Nxc6 Bxc6 25.Nf3 Bxf3 26.gxf3 Rxf3* Verot,M-Fuentes,A Gorzow 2013 200 Traps In The Opening [Lippstreu]*)* 14.Ng5 Ne5 15.Qg3 Qd6 16.Nxf7 Nxf7 17.Nf3 Qxg3 18.hxg3 c6 19.Nd4 Bxd4 20.cxd4 Ne4 21.g4 Rfe8 22.Kh2 Nfd6 23.f3 Nf6 24.Bc2 bxa4 25.Rxa4 Nb5 26.Bf4 Nd7 Sokolov,A (2635)-Jussupow,A (2635) Tilburg 1987 CI1-130 [Jussupow, Artur] ½-½ (64)]
12...Qd7 13.Nb3 Be7N White has an edge.
[13...Ba7 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.Qxe3 Nd8 16.Nc5 Qe7 C 82/07]
14.Nbd4 Nxd4! 15.cxd4 f4



16.Bd2 Bf5 17.Qb3
[17.Bxf4? Ng5! 18.Qe3 Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 Bxc2-+]
17...Be6 18.Bb4 Bxb4 19.Qxb4 Bg4 Threatens to win with ...Bxf3. **20.Qb3 Kh8** 0.79/17
[20...c5± 0.44/19]

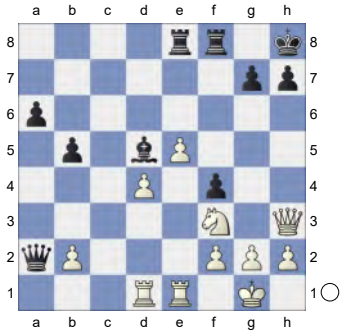


21.Rfe1± Be6 22.Rad1 c6 23.Bd3 Bg4 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.Rxe4 Be6

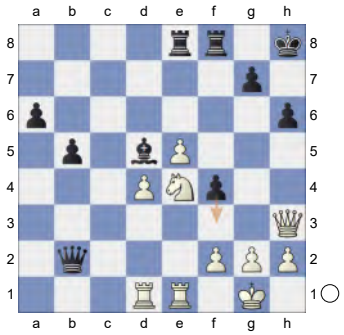


26.Qc3 Qd5 1.38/21
[Black should try 26...Bd5 0.91/18 27.Ree1 Qf5]
27.Ree1 Qxa2 28.Qxc6 Bd5 29.Qd7 Rad8 30.Qh3 1.12/21
[⌓30.Qg4 1.46/21]

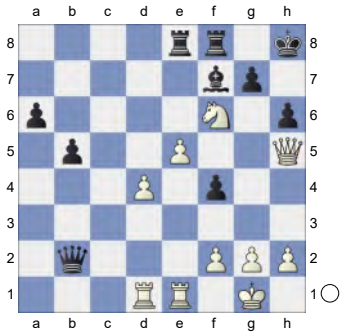
30...Rde8



Inhibits e6. **31.Ng5 h6 32.Ne4 Qxb2**

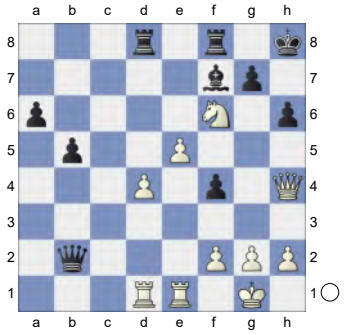


33.Nf6! Be6 2.43/19 This move loses the game for Black.
[33...Rd8± 1.08/21]
34.Qh5 Dancing on a razor blade.
34...Bf7

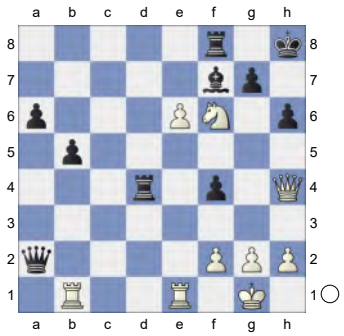


35.Qh4 &Bianco is more active. **35...Rd8**

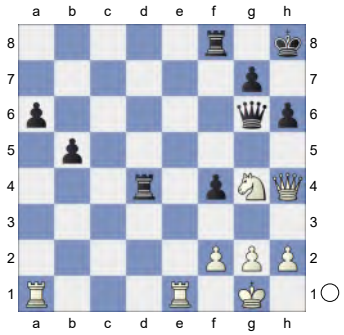
(Diagram)



36.e6! Rxd4 37.Rb1→ Black is in trouble.
[Worse is 37.exf7 Rxd1 38.Rxd1 Qxf6 39.Qxf6 gxf6∓]
37...Qa2 2.63/22
[37...Qxb1± 1.49/21 is a better defense. 38.Rxb1 Bg6]

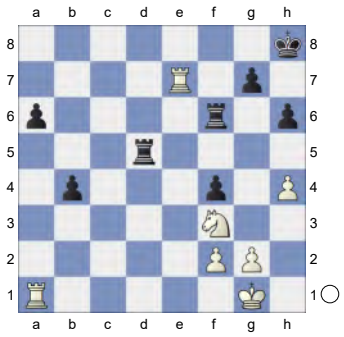


38.Ra1!+- Qb3 39.exf7 Qxf7 40.Ng4 Black must now prevent Nxh6!
[Don't play 40.Rxa6?! gxf6 41.Qxh6+ Kg8±]
40...Qg6 2.55/22
[⌓40...Rd6 1.95/21 41.Re7 Qd5]

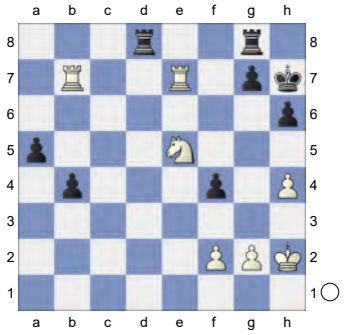


41.Ne5 Qd6 42.Nf3 Rd5 43.Qe7

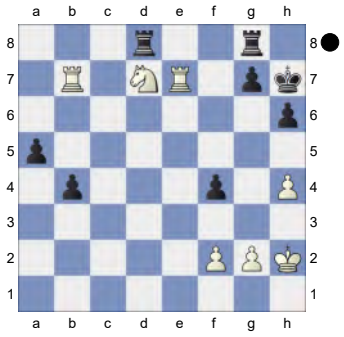
Qxe7 44.Rxe7 Rf6 2.74/22
[⌓44...Ra8 1.85/22 45.Ne5 Kh7]
45.h4 b4



46.Rb7 Inhibits Rb6. **46...a5 47.Re1 Rf8 48.Ree7 Rg8 49.Kh2 Rdd8 50.Ne5** Nf7+ is the strong threat. **50...Kh7**



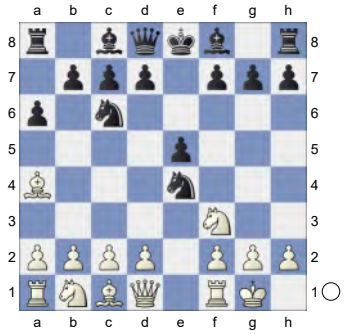
51.Nd7



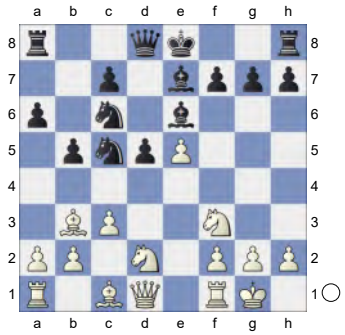
Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)
1-0

127 **C83**
□ **Harikrishna,Pentala** **2752**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2808**
42. Olympiad 2016 (7.1) 09.09.2016
[Kitty Kat]

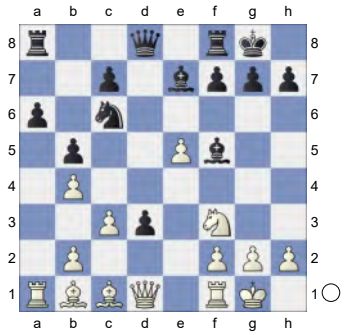
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

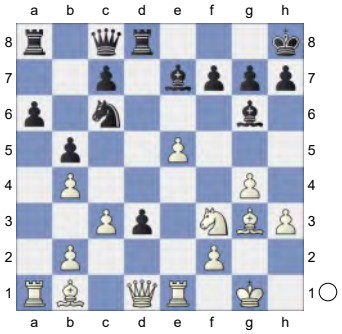


11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.b4 0-0**

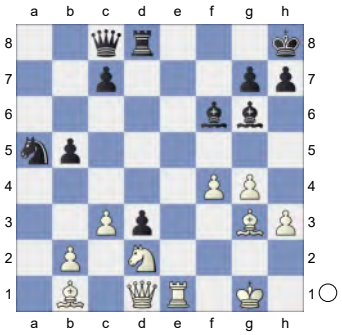


16.Bf4 Qd7 17.h3 Rfd8 18.g4 Bg6

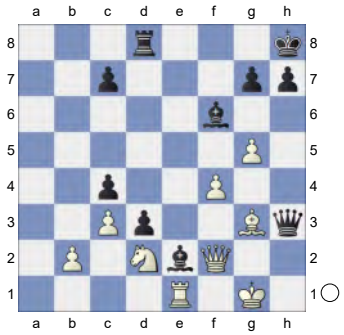
19.Bg3! Kh8N
[19...h5 feels hotter. 20.Re1 d2 21.Re2 Bxb1 22.Rxb1 hxg4 23.Rxd2 Qe6 *(23...Qf5 24.hxg4 Qxg4 25.Nd4 Qg6 26.Nxc6 Qxc6 27.Ra1 Qg6 28.Qf3 Bh4 29.Rad1 Re8 30.Rd5 Bxg3 31.Qxg3 Qxg3+ 32.fxg3 Re6 33.Rd8+ Rxd8 34.Rxd8+ Kh7 35.Rd7 Kg6 36.Rxc7 Rxe5 37.Kf2 ½-½ (37) Anand,V (2776)-Mamedyarov,S (2761) Moscow 2016 CBM 179 [Kuzmin,Alexey])*]
20.Re1! Qc8 0.65/21
[20...d2 21.Re2±]
[⌓20...h6 0.34/19]



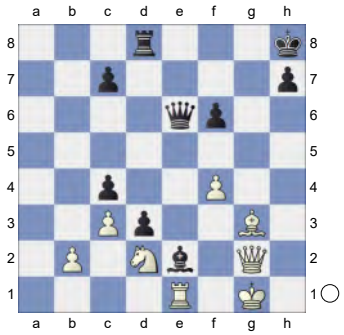
21.Nd2 -0.33/21
[21.Nh4± 0.65/21 Bxh4 22.Bxh4]
21...a5∓ 22.bxa5 Rxa5 0.01/19
[22...Nxa5∓ -0.47/20 23.f4 h6]
23.Rxa5= Nxa5 24.f4 f5 0.21/20
[⌓24...h5 -0.12/19]
25.exf6! Bxf6



...Nc4 is the strong threat. **26.Ba2** Prevents Nc4. aiming for g5. **26...Nc4** 0.97/20
[26...b4!= -0.01/19 remains equal.]
27.Bxc4±
[27.Nxc4 bxc4 28.f5 Bf7-+]
27...bxc4 28.g5!↑ White is in control.
28...Qxh3 29.Qf3 Bh5 30.Qf2 Be2 1.37/19

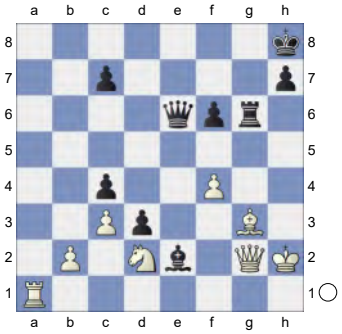


31.gxf6 gxf6 32.Qg2!
[32.Nxc4 Rg8 33.Ne3 Rxg3+ 34.Ng2 d2! 35.Rd1 Rxg2+! 36.Qxg2 Qxg2+ 37.Kxg2 Bxd1 38.Kg3 Be2 39.Kg2 d1Q 40.Kf2 Qd3 41.b3 Qf3+ 42.Ke1 Bd3 43.Kd2 Qe2+ 44.Kc1 Qc2#]
32...Qe6

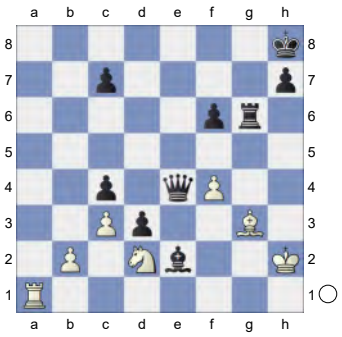


White must now prevent ...Qe3+.
33.Kh2! Rg8 34.Ra1 Rg6 2.27/22
[34...Qe8± 1.60/20]

(Diagram)

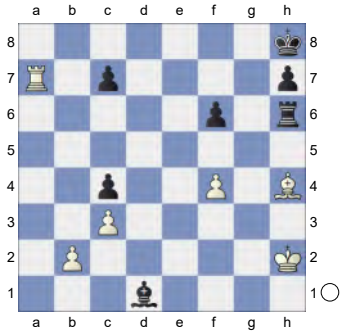


35.Qe4? 0.42/23
[White should try 35.Ra8+!+- 2.27/22 Kg7 36.Ra7]
35...Qxe4±
[35...Qg4? 36.Ra8+ Kg7 37.Qe7+ Kh6 38.Qf8+ Rg7 39.Qxf6+ Qg6 40.Qh4+ Qh5 41.Nxc4+-]

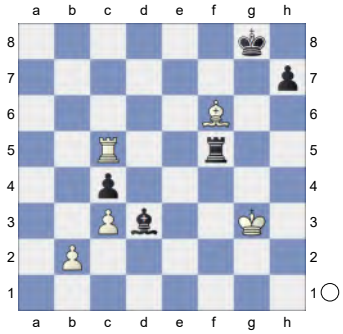


36.Nxe4 Dancing on a razor blade.
36...Bf3! 37.Nf2 -0.15/22
[37.Nd2!± 0.42/25 Rh6+ 38.Kg1 Rh1+ 39.Kf2 Rxa1 40.Kxf3]
37...d2= 38.Ra7 Rh6+ -0.01/24
[38...h5∓ -0.50/23 is more appropriate. 39.f5 *(39.Rxc7? h4-+)* 39...Rg7]
39.Bh4! The position is equal. **39...d1Q**
[Don't take 39...Rxh4+ 40.Kg3 Rh1 41.Kxf3 d1Q+ 42.Nxd1 Rxd1 43.Rxc7±]
40.Nxd1 Bxd1
[40...Rxh4+? 41.Kg3+-]

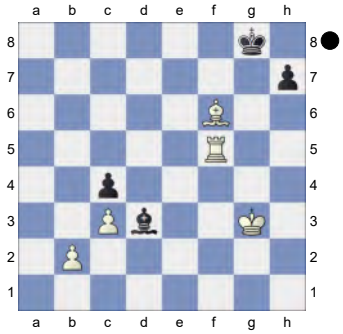
(Diagram)



Endgame KRB-KRB **41.Kg3 Kg8 42.f5 Bc2 43.Rxc7 Bd3 44.Rc5 Rh5 45.Bxf6** Threatens to win with Kg4.
45...Rxf5



46.Rxf5

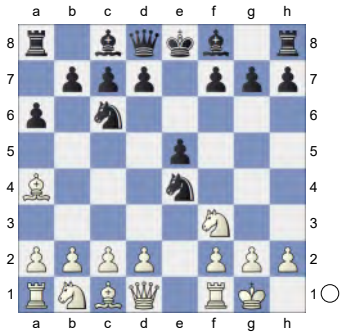


Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.14 (very precise)
½-½

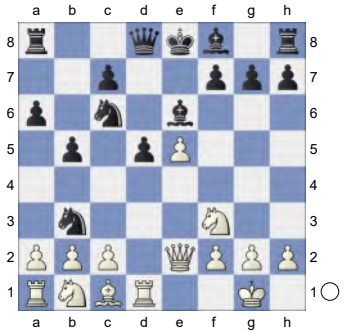
128 **C81**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2807**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2769**
4. Sinquefield Cup 2016 (9.5) 14.08.2016
[Kitty Kat]

C81: Open Ruy Lopez: Keres Variation (9 Qe2)

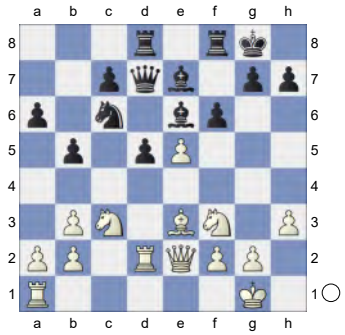
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Qe2 Nc5 10.Rd1 Nxb3

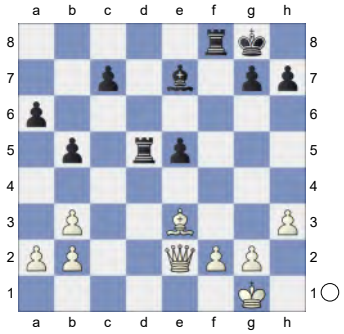


11.cxb3 Be7 12.Nc3 0-0 White has an edge. **13.Be3 Qd7 14.h3**
[14.Rd2 Nd8 15.Rc1 c6 16.Ne4 Bg4 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Re8 19.Qg3 Kh8 20.Bc5 Nb7 21.Bd4 Bf8 22.Ng5 Kg8 23.Qd3 g6 24.Qg3 c5 25.Be3 Bg7 26.Rcd1 Rxe5 27.Qh4 h6 28.Nf3 Rh5 Perez Ponsa,F (2585)-Ding,L (2753) Baku AZE 2016 [Mikhalevski,V] 0-1 (57)]
14...Rad8N 0.41/21
[14...f6= -0.01/20 feels stronger. 15.exf6 Rxf6 16.Ng5 Rf5 17.Nxe6 Qxe6 18.Bf4 Qf7 19.Bxc7 Bc5 20.Bg3 Re8 21.Qd2 Rf8 22.Rf1 Nd4 23.b4 Bb6 24.Rae1 Rh5 25.Qd3 Nc6 26.a3 Rf5 27.Qd2 h6 28.Kh2 Kh8 29.Rd1 Nd4 Stratil,P (2461)-Cologne (2479) Paris 2019 EXT 98 [Stockfish8/180 sec./10cpu+Bellmann] 1-0 (83)]
[14...Rfd8 15.Rd2 Na5 16.Rad1 c5 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5 Qxd5 19.Rxd5 Rxd5 20.e6 f6 21.Bf4 Rad8 22.Bc7 Rd1+ 23.Kh2 Bd6+ 24.g3 Bxc7 25.e7 Kf7 26.exd8Q Rxd8 27.Qe4 Bb6 28.Qxh7 c4 29.Kg2 Mpp (2712)-Russell,J (2331) Tilburg 2022 ICCF 2019 [John Watson] 1-0 (52)]
15.Rd2± f6

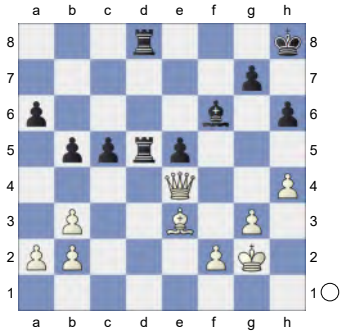


16.Rad1 Nxe5
[16...fxe5 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5 Qxd5 19.Rxd5 Rxd5 20.Qc2]
17.Nxe5 fxe5 18.Nxd5! Bxd5 19.Rxd5 Qxd5 1.12/19
[Better is 19...Qe6± 0.57/21 20.Rxd8 Rxd8]
20.Rxd5± Rxd5

(Diagram)

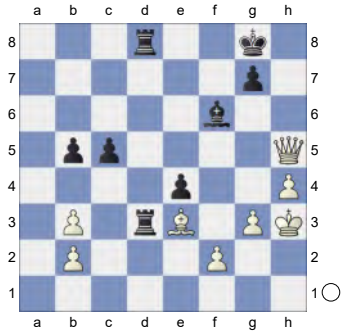


21.Qc2! Prevents Bc5. **21...c5 22.g3** White has strong compensation. **22...Kh8 23.h4 Rfd8 24.Qe4 h6 25.Kg2 Bf6** 1.70/21
[25...a5± 0.87/20]

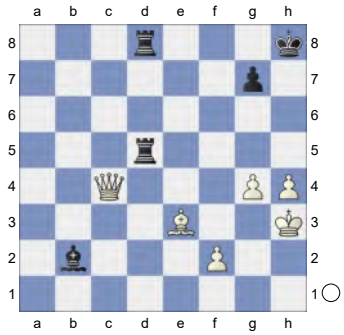


26.Kh3 1.12/19
[26.Qg6+- 1.70/21]
26...h5 1.99/23
[26...a5± 1.12/19]
27.a4+- Rd3 2.24/23
[⌓27...R8d7 1.79/22 28.Qg6 e4]
28.axb5 axb5 29.Qg6 e4? 2.24/24
[29...Rxb3= 0.01/20 and Black has nothing to worry. 30.Bg5 Bxg5 31.Qxg5 Rd4]
30.Qxh5+ Kg8

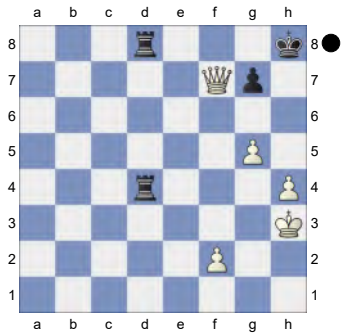
(Diagram)



31.Qf5
[Don't blunder 31.Bxc5? R3d5 32.Qg6 Rxc5-+]
[31.Qxc5 Rxb3 32.Bg5 e3 33.Bxf6 *(33.Bxe3 Rxb2 34.g4 Rb1+-)* 33...gxf6+-]
31...Bxb2 2.91/23
[31...Bd4 1.88/21 was necessary.]
32.Qxe4 c4 33.bxc4 bxc4 34.Qxc4+ R3d5 35.g4 Kh8



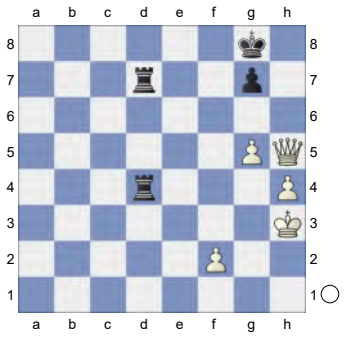
36.g5 Bd4 37.Bxd4 Rxd4 Endgame KQ-KRR **38.Qf7**



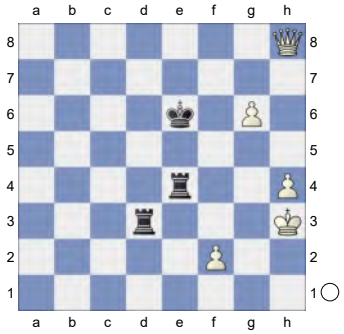
And now Qh5+ would win. **38...R8d7?** 9.67/27 Black cannot hold the game after this.
[38...Rd3+± 1.33/23 39.Kg4 R3d4+

40.f4 R4d5]

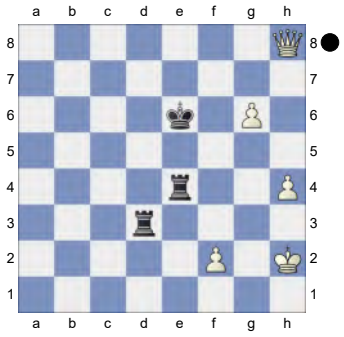
39.Qe8+ White is clearly winning. **39...Kh7 40.Qh5+ Kg8**



41.g6 Re4 42.Qh7+ Kf8 43.Qh8+ Ke7 44.Qxg7+ Ke6 45.Qh8 Black must now prevent g7. **45...Rd3+**



46.Kh2



Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.43

1-0

129 **C84**

□ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2733**

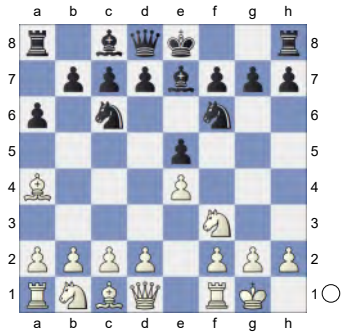
■ **Kovalev,Vladislav** **2636**

21. European Teams (2.6) 29.10.2017

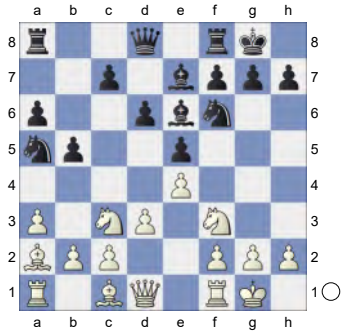
[Kitty Kat]

C77: Ruy Lopez: 3...a6 4 Ba4 Nf6, unusual lines

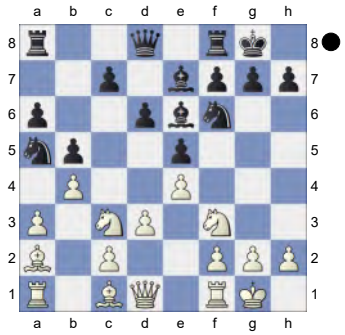
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7



6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a3 0-0 9.Nc3 Na5 10.Ba2 Be6

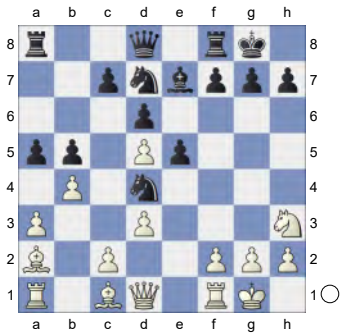


11.b4

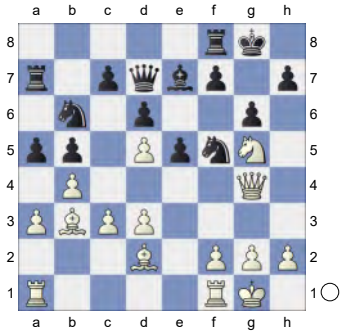


Hoping for Bxe6. **11...Nc6** The position is equal. **12.Nd5 Nd4 13.Ng5 Bxd5**

14.exd5 Nd7 15.Nh3N
[15.Ne4 f5 16.Nd2 f4 17.c3 Nf5 18.Ne4 Qe8 19.Bb3 Qg6 20.f3 Bh4 21.a4 Nf6 22.Qe2 a5 23.axb5 axb4 24.Bd2 bxc3 25.Bxc3 Ne3 26.Rfc1 Rxa1 27.Rxa1 Qe8 28.Bc4 Kh8 29.Nxf6 Bxf6 Karjakin,S (2772)-Carlsen,M (2853) New York 2016 CBM 176 [Navara,David] 0-1 (38) 30.Ra3 e4 31.dxe4 Bxc3 32.Rxc3 Qe5 33.Rc1 Ra8 34.h3 h6 35.Kh2 Qd4 36.Qe1 Qb2 37.Bf1 Ra2 38.Rxc7 Ra1 0-1 (38) 10.♗a3 b6 11.ba5 ♘h5_1525 (2772)-Molina,R (2853) Turnov 2016 CBM 056 Extra [Voiska/Kostakiev]]
15...a5

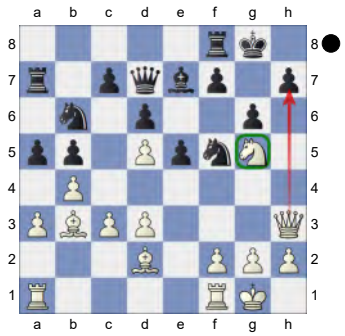


16.c3 Nf5 17.Bd2 Nb6 18.Bb3 Qd7 19.Qg4 g6 20.Ng5 Ra7

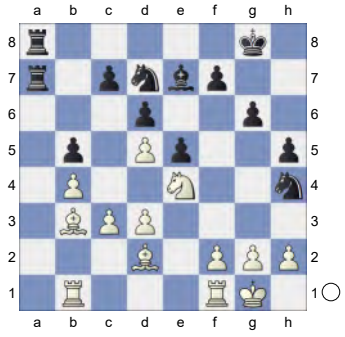


21.Qh3

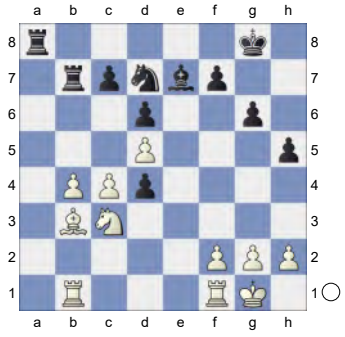
(Diagram)



h5 22.Ne4 Rfa8 And now ...axb4 would win. **23.Rab1 axb4 24.axb4 Nh4 25.Qxd7**
[25.Qg3 is interesting. Ra3 26.f4 Rxb3 27.Rxb3 Ra2 28.fxe5 Nf5 29.Qf3]
25...Nxd7

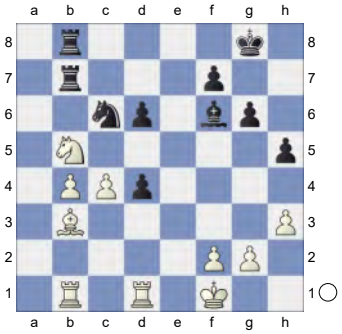


26.c4 Nf5 27.Nc3 bxc4 28.dxc4 Nd4 Threatening ...Ra3. **29.Be3 Rb7**
[29...Ra3? 30.Bxd4 exd4 31.Nb5+-]
30.Bxd4 exd4

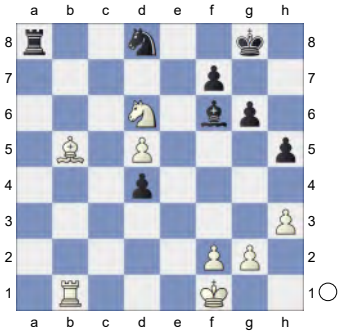


31.Nb5 Bf6 32.Rfd1 Ne5 33.Kf1 Rab8 34.h3 c6 35.dxc6 Nxc6

(Diagram)

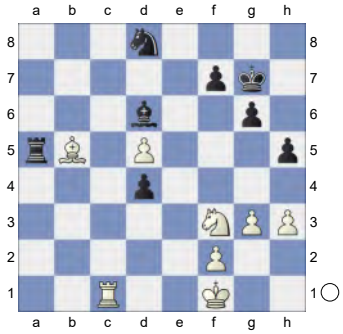


36.Ba4 d5 0.19/22
[⌓36...Nd8 -0.16/23]
37.cxd5= Nd8 38.Nd6
[Don't go for 38.Nxd4? Rxb4 39.Rxb4 Rxb4-+]
38...Rxb4 39.Bb5 Rxb1 40.Rxb1 Ra8 0.63/18
[40...h4= 0.28/19]

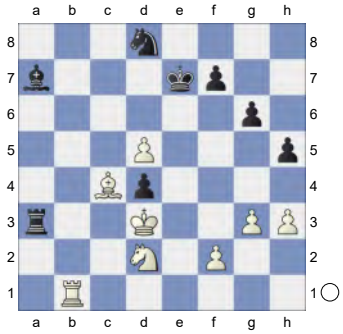


41.g3 0.19/19 &Bianco is more active.
[41.Bd3± 0.63/18 feels stronger.]
41...Be7 0.55/20
[41...h4!= 0.19/19]
42.Nc4
[42.Ne4!?]
42...Bc5 43.Ne5 Kg7 44.Rc1 Bd6 45.Nf3 Ra5

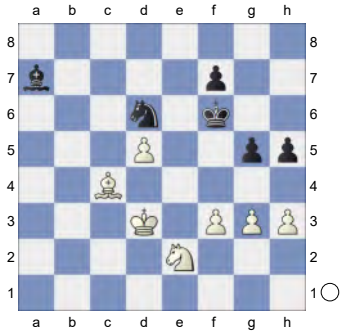
(Diagram)



46.Bc4 Bc5 47.Rb1 Ba7 0.59/18
Inhibits Rb8.
[47...Ra7= 0.25/20]
48.Ke2 Kf6 49.Nd2 Ke7 50.Kd3 Ra3+

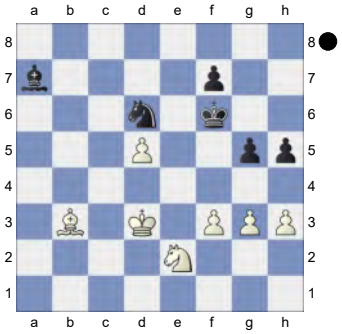


51.Rb3 Rxb3+ 52.Nxb3 Nb7 53.Nxd4 Black must now prevent Nc6+. **53...Kf6 54.f3 Nd6 55.Ne2** 0.14/24
[55.Bb3± 0.68/21]
55...g5



56.Bb3

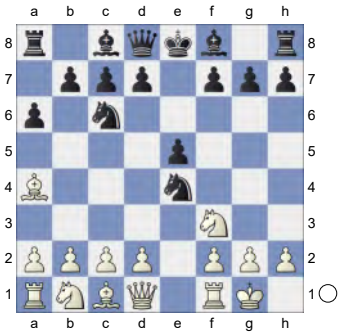
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

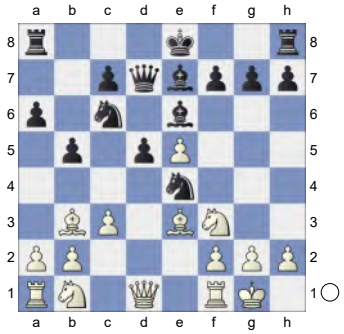
130 **C83**
□ **Giri,Anish** **2798**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2787**
78. Tata Steel GpA (4.2) 19.01.2016
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Qd7

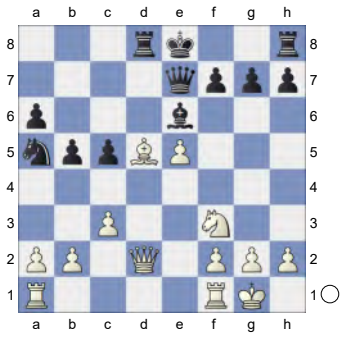
(Diagram)



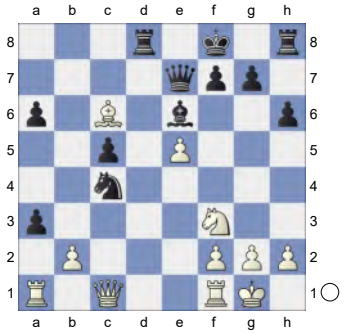
11.Nbd2 Nxd2 12.Qxd2 Na5 13.Bg5
White has an edge.
[13.Nd4 Nc4 14.Bxc4 dxc4 15.f4 Bf5 16.Nxf5 Qxf5 17.Qd5 0-0 18.Qc6 Rfd8 19.Rad1 Bf8 20.Qxc7 Rd3 21.Rxd3 cxd3 22.Qb7 Rd8 23.Bd2 h5 24.Qf3 a5 25.Re1 a4 26.e6 Bd6 27.exf7+ Qxf7 9.00 ♘bd7 10.b3_67550 (2662)-Vasquez Bonifacio,L (2703) Bilbao 2023 Schlechter-Tarrasch [John Watson] ½-½ (52)]
13...c5 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Bxd5N
[15.Rfe1 Rd8 16.Qf4 h6 17.Bc2 Nc6 18.Rad1 g5 19.Qg3 g4 20.Nd2 c4 21.b3 Qa3 22.bxc4 bxc4 23.f4 gxf3 24.Nxf3 Kd7 25.Qf2 Kc7 26.Nd4 Rb8 27.Rf1 Nxd4 28.Qxd4 Rb2 29.Rd2 Rg8 Keres,P-Pilnik,H Buenos Aires 1964 MCL [Becker, Albert] 1-0 (41) 30.Rdf2 Rg7 31.h3 Qa5 32.Bf5 Rxf2 33.Qa7+ Kc6 34.Qa8+ Kc7 35.Qa7+ Kc6 36.Qa8+ Kc7 37.Rxf2 Qb6 38.Qf8 Rg5 39.Bxe6 fxe6 40.Kh2 Qc6 41.Rf7+ 1-0 (41) Opl,K-Ramirez Garrastacho, M Wijk 1964 Mega2014 Update 23 [Tseitlin,Mikhail S]]
[15.Ng5 Nxb3 16.axb3 0-0 17.f4 g6 18.h3 Rfd8 19.Qf2 h6 20.Nf3 Bf5 21.b4 cxb4 22.cxb4 Rdc8 23.Nd4 Be4 24.Rac1 Rc4 25.b3 Rxc1 26.Rxc1 Qxb4 27.Rc7 Qa5 28.Rc6 Re8 29.Kh2 Qa1 Under the Radar,J-

Grabinsky,J ICCF 1985 Telechess CBM 89 [Beyen, FS] 0-1 (85)]

15...Rd8



16.c4! Nxc4 17.Bc6+ Kf8 18.Qc3 b4 19.Qc1 h6 20.a3 bxa3



21.bxa3

[21.b3!? Na5 22.Ba4=]

21...g5 Against Qf4

[21...Qc7!? 22.Ba4 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 Qxe5=]

22.Rb1 And now Rb7 would win.

22...Qc7 23.Be4 Qa5 0.71/22

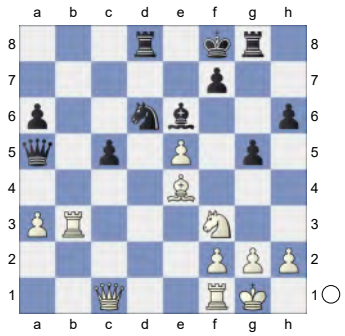
[23...g4= 0.01/20 24.Rb7 Qc8]

24.Rb7 0.30/21

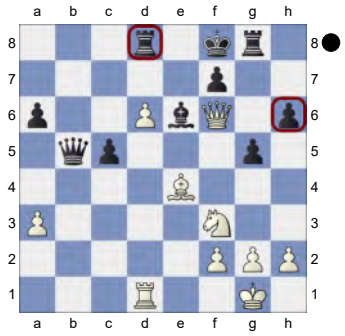
[24.h3!± 0.71/22]

24...Rg8!= 25.Rb3 next Rc3 is good for White. **25...Nd6**

(Diagram)



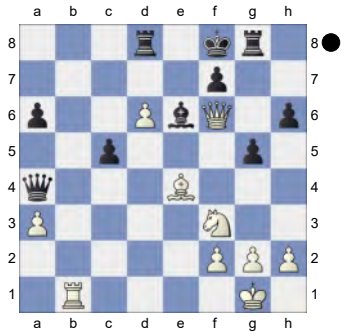
26.exd6 Bxb3 27.Qb2! Be6 28.Rd1! Qb5 29.Qf6



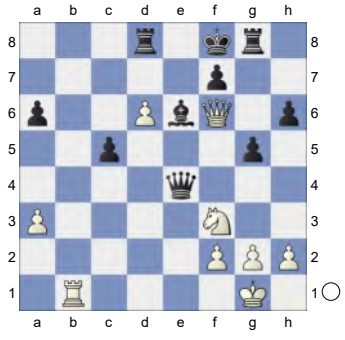
Qa4! 30.Rb1

[30.Qxd8+? Kg7 31.Qxg8+ Kxg8-+]

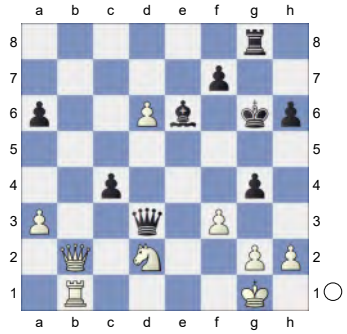
[30.Re1 Rxd6]



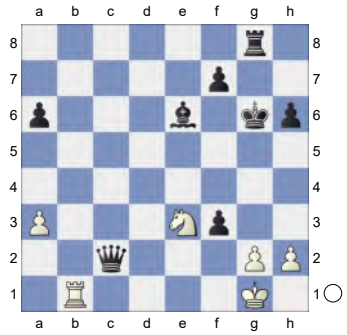
The board is on fire. **30...Qxe4!**



31.Qxd8+ Kg7 32.Qb6 g4→
Black mounts an attack. **33.Nd2 Qd3 34.Qb2+** -0.86/23
[34.Nf1!= -0.26/22]
34...Kg6!∓ 35.f3 c4
[35...Qxd6?! 36.fxg4 Bxg4 37.Qb6 Qxb6 38.Rxb6+ Be6 39.Rxa6∓]

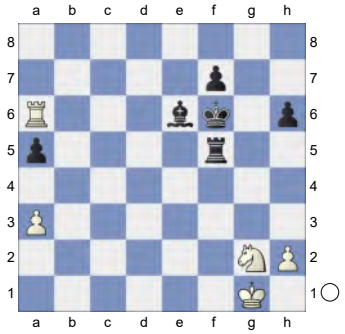


36.Ne4 -1.80/20 Inhibits c3.
[36.Rc1∓ -1.08/21]
36...c3!-+
[36...gxf3 37.Re1∓]
37.Nxc3 gxf3 38.Nd1
[Avoid the trap 38.Rd1? Qe3+ 39.Qf2 *(39.Kh1? Kh7-+)* 39...Qxc3-+]
38...Qxd6 39.Ne3 Qd3 40.Qc2 Qxc2

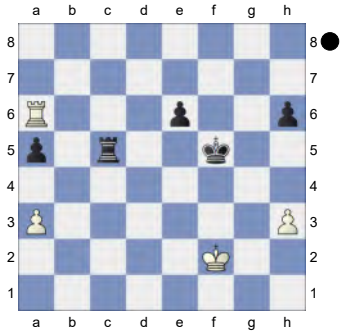


41.Nxc2 Endgame KRB-KRN **41...Kf6 42.Ne1 fxg2 43.Rb6 a5 44.Ra6 Rg5 45.Nxg2 Rf5**

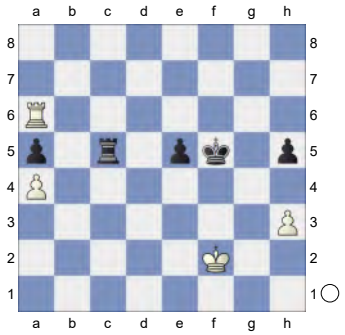
(Diagram)



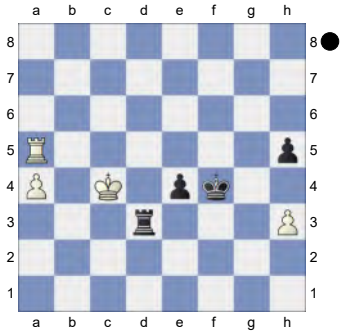
46.h3 Rc5 47.Nf4 Kf5 48.Nxe6 fxe6∓
KR-KR **49.Kf2** -1.35/21
[49.a4-+ -1.75/25]



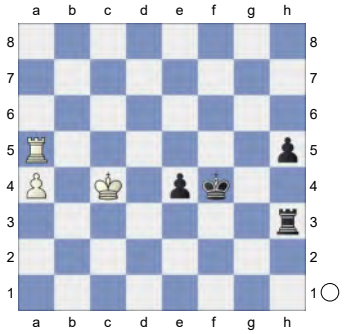
49...h5! 50.a4 e5 -1.00/24
[Black should play 50...h4-+ -1.75/27 51.Ke2 e5]



51.Ra8 -1.55/25
[⌓51.Kg3 -1.00/24]
51...e4 -1.18/24
[⌓51...h4 -1.55/25 52.Kf3 Rc3+ 53.Kg2 Rc2+ 54.Kf1 Rc5]
52.Ke3 Rc3+ 53.Kd4 Rd3+ 54.Kc4 Kf4 55.Rxa5
(Diagram)

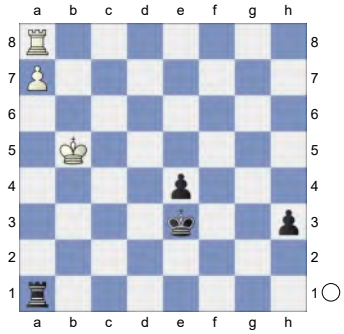


Rxh3 -0.80/23
[⌓55...Ra3! -1.58/22 Strongly threatening ...e3. 56.Kb4 Rxh3]

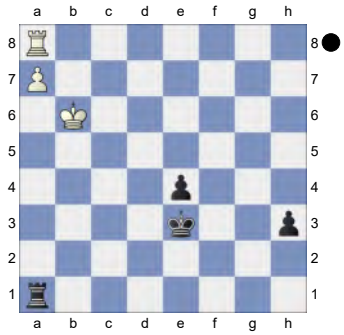


56.Ra8 Rh1 -0.26/23
[56...Ra3∓ -0.70/20 57.Kb4 Ra1 58.Rf8+ Kg5 59.Rg8+ Kf6]
57.a5 h4 -0.01/21
[57...Rc1+∓ -0.52/21 58.Kd4 Rd1+ 59.Kc4 Rc1+ 60.Kd4 Rd1+ 61.Kc4 Rc1+]
58.a6= The position is equal. **58...Ra1** aiming for ...h3. **59.a7 Ke3** ...h3 is the strong threat.
[59...h3!? 60.Rf8+ Kg3 61.Rg8+ Kf2 62.Rf8+ Kg3=]
60.Kb5 h3

(Diagram)



White must now prevent ...h2. **61.Kb6!** **Rb1+ 62.Kc6 Ra1** Hoping for ...h2. **63.Kb6**

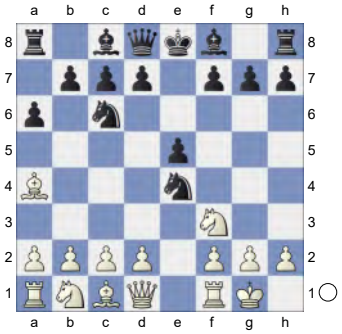


White happily takes the draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.11 (very precise)
½-½

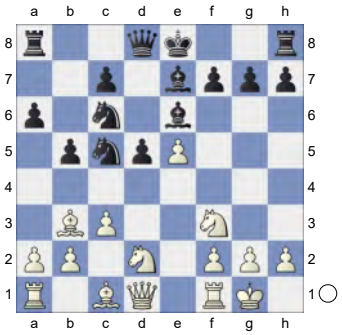
131 **C83**
□ **Kasimdzhanov,Rustam** **2703**
■ **Wei,Yi** **2694**
15. Asian Continental (8.2) 02.06.2016
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

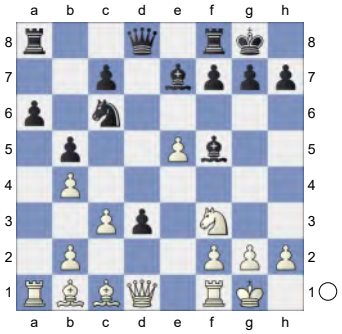
(Diagram)



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.c3 Nc5



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.b4 0-0**

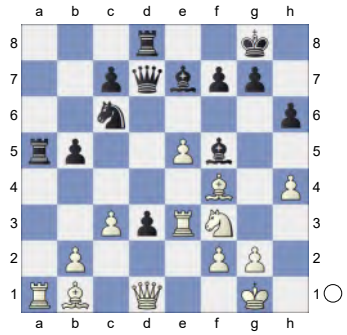


16.Re1 Qd7 17.Bf4 Rfd8 18.h4 h6 19.Re3

[19.h5 Bf8 20.Re3 Be7 21.Ba2 Qc8 22.e6 fxe6 23.Qe1 Bd6 24.Rxe6 Kh8 25.Nh4 Bh7 26.Qe3 Bxf4 27.Qxf4 Qd7 28.Rd1 Re8 29.Qe3 Rxe6 30.Bxe6 Qe8 31.Ng6+ Bxg6 32.hxg6 Qxg6 33.Bd5 Rd8 Vitiugov,N (2676)-Santos Latasa,J (2624) Germany 2024 ½-½ (66)]

19...a5 20.bxa5 Rxa5N 0.68/22

[20...Nxa5= -0.02/19 21.g4 *(21.e6 fxe6 22.Ne5 Qd5 23.Qh5 Nc4 24.Rxa8 Rxa8 25.Qf7+ Kh8 26.Rg3 Bf8 27.Nd7 Nd6 28.Bxd6 Qxd6 29.Nf6 Bh7 30.Bxd3 Qf4 31.Bxh7 Ra1+ 32.Kh2 Qxh4+ 33.Rh3 Qf4+ 34.Rg3 Qh4+ 35.Rh3 Qf4+* Safarli,E (2593)-Brkic,A (2600) Batumi 2019 Chess Informant 142 [Perunovic, Milos] ½-½ (35) *)* 21...Bxg4 22.Rxd3 Qe8]



21.Rxa5± Nxa5 22.Nd4! Nc4 23.Nxf5

[23.Rxd3? Nxb2 24.Nxf5 Nxd1-+]

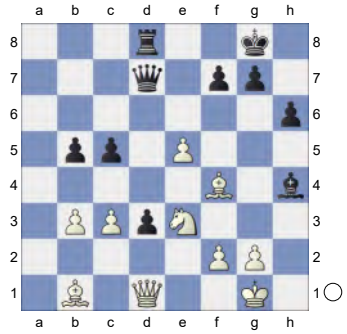
23...Nxe3 24.Nxe3

[24.Nxe7+?! Qxe7 25.Bxe3 c5=]

24...c5 25.b3 0.56/19 Inhibits c4.

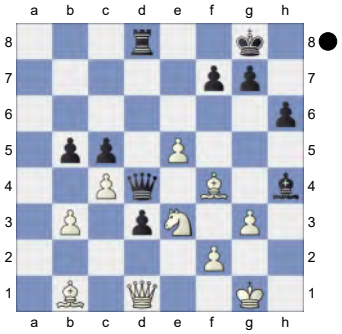
[White should try 25.h5± 1.24/18]

25...Bxh4

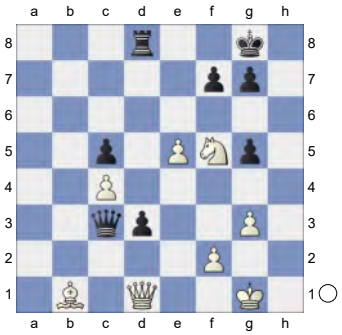


26.c4 Qd4! 27.g3

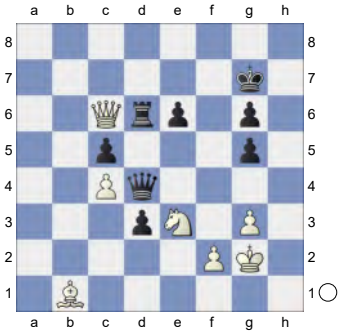
(Diagram)



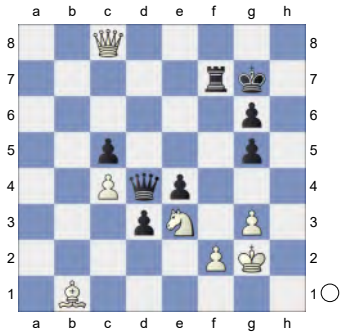
Nf5 is the strong threat. **27...bxc4 28.bxc4 Bg5 29.Nf5 Qc3 30.Bxg5 hxg5**



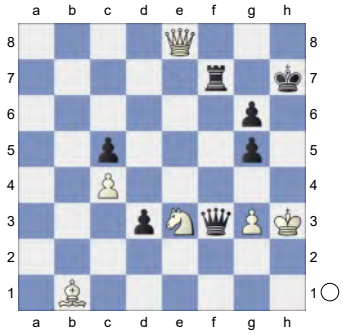
31.Ne3 g6 32.Kg2 Kg7 33.e6 fxe6 34.Qa4 Qd4 35.Qc6 Inhibits Qe4+. **35...Rd6**



36.Qb7+ Rd7 37.Qc6 e5 38.Qe6 -0.53/23
[Better is 38.Kh3= -0.01/24]
38...e4 -0.01/24
[38...Rf7∓ -0.53/23 39.Bxd3 Qxd3 40.Qxe5+ Kh7 41.Qxc5 Qe2]
39.Qg4? -2.97/24
[39.Ng4= -0.01/24 and White is okay.]
39...Rb7? -1.01/21
[39...Rf7-+ -2.97/24 and Black stays clearly on top. Hoping for ...Qb2. 40.Qxg5 Qf6 41.Qxf6+ Kxf6]
40.Qc8? -3.96/22 **Rf7-+**
[40...Rxb1 41.Nd5=]

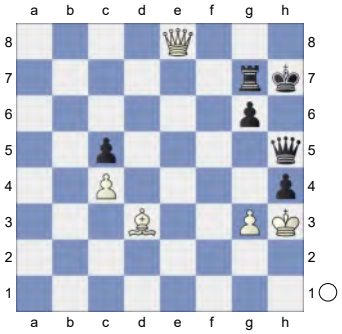


And now ...Qb2 would win. Active counter play! **41.Qe6 Qf6**
[41...Qb2 42.Ng4=]
42.Qxe4 aiming for Ng4. **42...Qxf2+ 43.Kh3 Qf3** Really sharp!
[Not 43...g4+ 44.Kxg4 Qf6 45.Bxd3∓]
44.Qe5+ Kg8 Black is clearly winning.
[And not 44...Kh6 45.Kh2= *(45.Ng4+? Kh7-+)*]
45.Qe8+ -17.04/30
[⌓45.Qd5 -4.89/25 Qxe3 46.Bxd3]
45...Kh7



46.Ng2 Qh5+ 47.Nh4 Rg7 -5.07/24
[⌓47...Rf3 -11.54/24 (-> ...Qxh4+) 48.Qxg6+ Qxg6 49.Nxg6 Kxg6]
48.Bxd3 gxh4

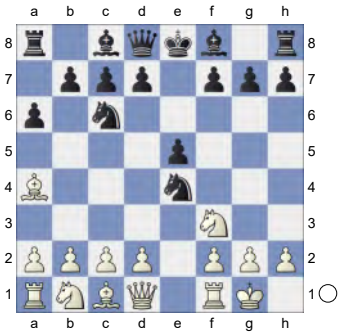
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.47/ Black=0.21 (precise)
0-1

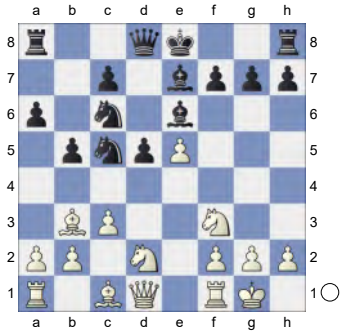
132 **C83**
☐ **Svidler,Peter** **2745**
■ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar** **2743**
20. European Teams (5.1) 17.11.2015
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

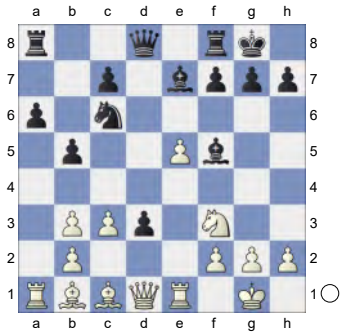


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

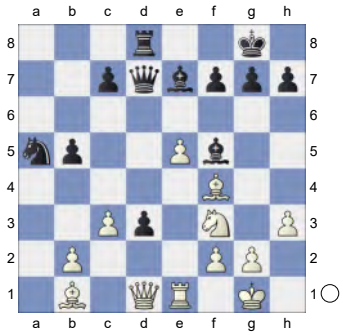
(Diagram)



11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.Re1 0-0**

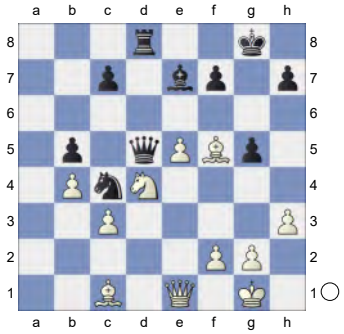


16.h3 Qd7 17.b4 Rfd8 18.Bf4 0.01/20
[18.g4± 0.42/20 Bg6 19.Bf4]
18...a5= 19.bxa5 Rxa5 20.Rxa5 Nxa5

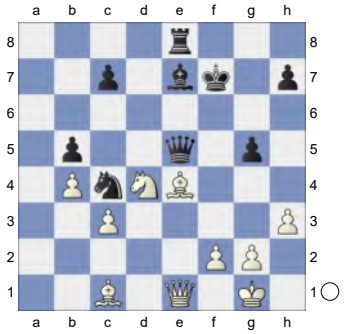


21.Nd4 g5N
[21...c5 22.e6 fxe6 23.Nxf5 exf5 24.Qxd3 Qxd3 25.Bxd3 Rxd3 26.Rxe7 Nc4 27.b3 Na5 28.Rc7 Rd5 29.Rc8+ Kf7 30.Rb8 c4 31.b4 Nb3 32.Rb7+ Kf6 33.Kh2 h6 34.h4 Nd2 35.Rb6+ Ke7 36.Bxd2 Suyarov,M (2466)-Moosavifar,S (2308) Doha QAT 2024 [Kitty Kat] ½-½ (66)]

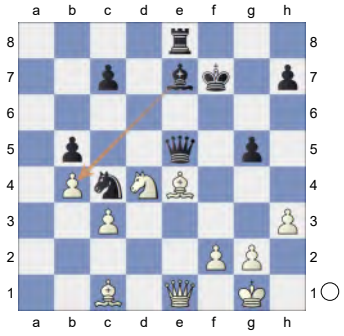
22.b4 Nc4
[Much less strong is 22...gxf4 23.bxa5 b4 24.e6 *(24.Bxd3 Bxd3 25.e6 fxe6=)* 24...fxe6 25.Ba2± *(25.Bxd3 Bxd3 26.Nxe6 Re8=; 25.Nxf5 exf5 26.Qb3+ Kh8±)*]
23.Bc1 d2 24.Bxf5 dxe1Q+ 25.Qxe1 Qd5



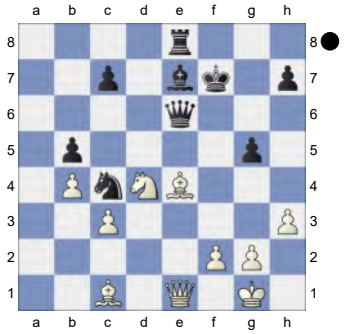
26.e6
[26.Be4!? Qxe5 27.Nc6=]
26...Qe5 The position is equal. **27.exf7+ Kxf7 28.Be4** Chess con chili. A strong pair of Bishops. **28...Re8!**



Strongly threatening ...Bf6. **29.Nf3⇄** White has counterplay **29...Qe6 30.Nd4 Qe5**



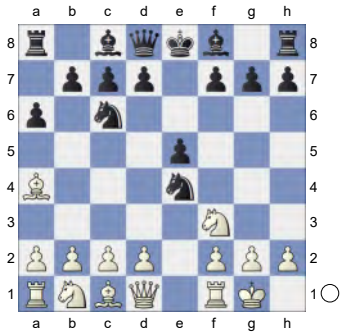
...Bxb4! is the strong threat. **31.Nf3 Qe6** And now ...Bf6 would win. **32.Nd4**



Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)
½-½

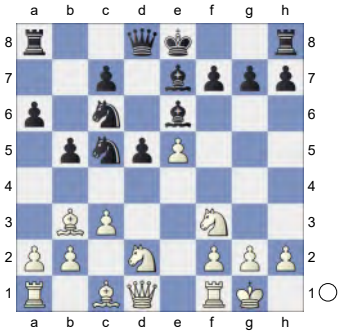
133 **C83**
□ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2783**
■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2772**
Vugar Gashimov Mem 2014 (6.3) 26.4.14
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

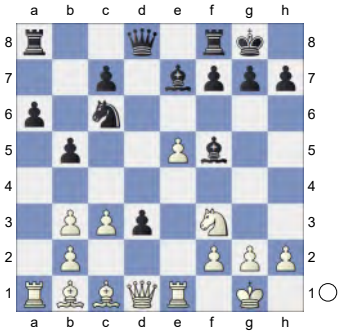


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

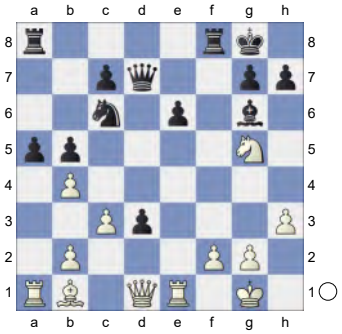
(Diagram)



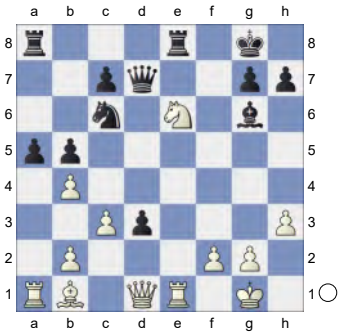
11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 d3 13.Bb1 Nxb3 14.axb3 White is slightly better. **14...Bf5 15.Re1 0-0**



16.b4 Qd7 17.h3! Bg6 18.Bg5 Bxg5 19.Nxg5 a5 20.e6 fxe6



21.Nxe6 Rfe8



And now ...d2 would win. **22.Nc5** 0.46/22

[22.Bxd3!± 0.79/24 Bxd3 *(22...Qxd3 23.Nxc7)* 23.Nc5 Rxe1+ 24.Qxe1]

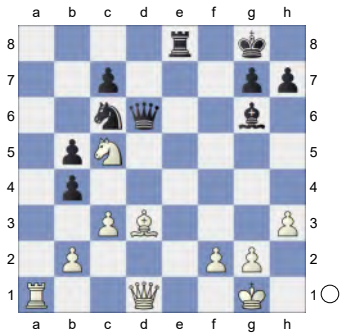
22...Qd6 Threatens to win with ...Rxe1+.

23.Bxd3 Rxe1+ 24.Qxe1 Re8!

[24...Bxd3 25.Nxd3 a4 26.Qe2±]

25.Qd1 axb4N

[25...Bxd3 26.Nxd3 axb4 27.Qh5 Rb8 28.Nxb4 Nxb4 29.cxb4 Qxb4 30.Qd5+ Kh8 31.Qe5 Qc4 32.Ra3 b4 33.Ra5 Qc1+ 34.Kh2 Qd2 35.f3 Qd6 36.Qxd6 cxd6 37.g4 g6 38.Kg3 Rb7 39.Rd5 Rb6 40.h4 Deakin,C (2422)-Heiermann,L (1951) ICCF 2022 update Okt.-Dez. [Ludger Heiermann,Dr. Stephan Busemann]] ½-½ (54)]



26.cxb4

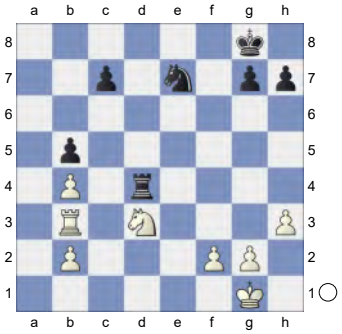
[26.Bxg6 seems wilder. hxg6 27.Qxd6 cxd6 28.Nb7]

26...Bxd3 27.Qxd3 0.08/22

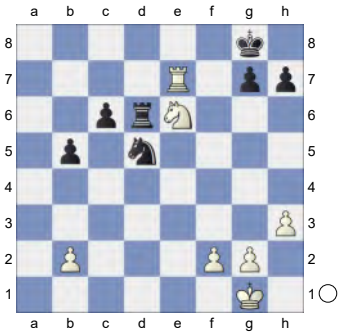
[27.Nxd3± 0.44/25 Nxb4 28.Qb3+ Qd5 29.Qxb4 Qxd3 30.Rc1]

27...Qxd3= 28.Nxd3± Endgame KRN-KRN **28...Rd8 29.Ra3 Rd4 30.Rb3 Ne7**

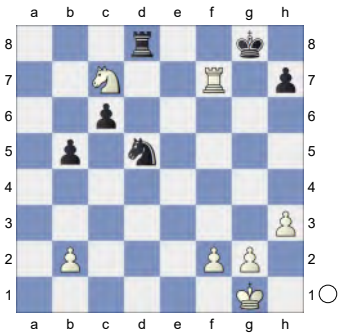
(Diagram)



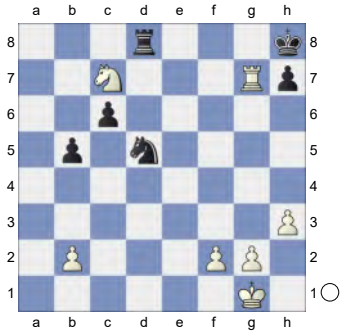
31.Nc5 c6 32.Re3 Nd5 33.Re6 Nxb4 34.Re7 Rd6 35.Ne6 Nd5



36.Rxg7+ Kh8 37.Nc7
[37.Nd4? Nf4 38.Nf5 Rf6∓]
37...Rd8 ...Rc8 is the strong threat.
38.Rf7 Kg8 39.Rg7+
[39.Ne6? Re8 40.Ng5 *(40.Rg7+? Kh8-+)* 40...h6-+]
39...Kh8 0.01/26
[39...Kxg7∓ -0.37/27 is superior. 40.Ne6+ Kf6 41.Nxd8 Nb4]
40.Rf7= Kg8



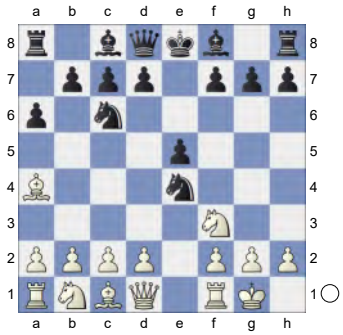
41.Rg7+ Kh8
[41...Kxg7!? 42.Ne6+ Kf6 43.Nxd8 Nb4=]



Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)
½-½

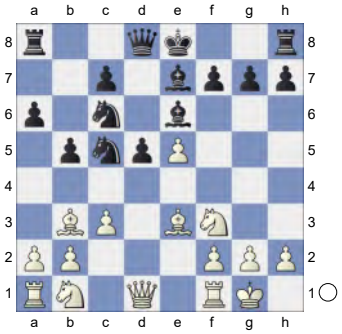
134 **C83**
□ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2757**
■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2772**
E GP Elancourt FRA (2.3) 23.09.2013
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

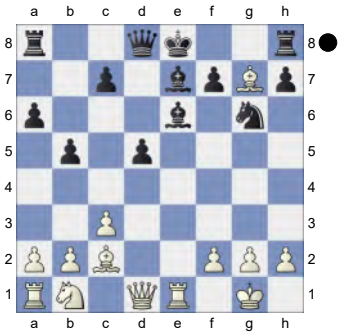


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Nc5

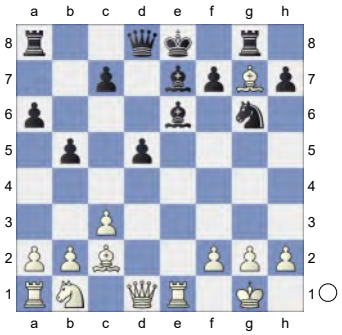
(Diagram)



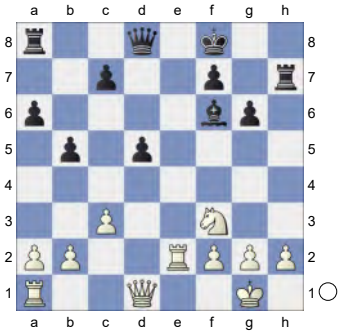
11.Bc2 Nd7 12.Re1 Ndxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bd4 Ng6 15.Bxg7



Strongly threatening Bxg6. **15...Rg8**



16.Bxg6 Rxg7 17.Rxe6 Black must now prevent Bh5. White has an edge. **17...hxg6 18.Re2 Kf8 19.Nd2 Rh7 20.Nf3 Bf6**



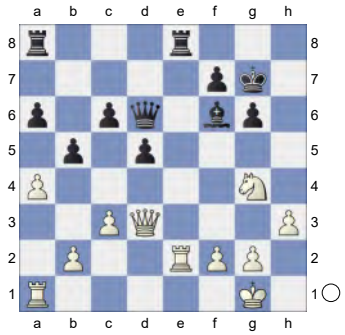
The position is equal. **21.Qd3**

[21.h3 Kg7 22.Qd3 Rh8 23.Rd1 c6 24.Ne5 Qd6 25.Ng4 Rae8 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-13.Ne5 Ne5 14.Bd4 Ng6 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

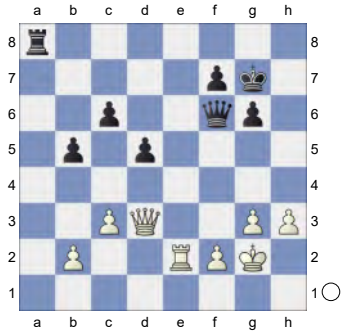
21...Kg7N

[21...Qd6 22.Rae1 Kg7 23.h3 Rd8 24.Ne5 Rh5 25.Ng4 d4 26.Nxf6 Qxf6 27.cxd4 Rxd4 28.Qc3 c5 29.b3 Rhd5 30.Rc2 Rd1 31.Qxf6+ Kxf6 32.Kf1 R5d2 33.Rxc5 Rxe1+ 34.Kxe1 Rxa2 35.h4 Ke6 36.g4 Rudolph,J (2608)-San Segundo Carrillo,P (2610) c) 3...Nf6 4.Bg2 d4 5.0-0 c5 6.e3 Nc6 7 2010 World Championship [Kozlov] ½-½ (44)]

22.a4 c6 23.h3 Rh8 24.Ne5 Qd6 25.Ng4 Rhe8

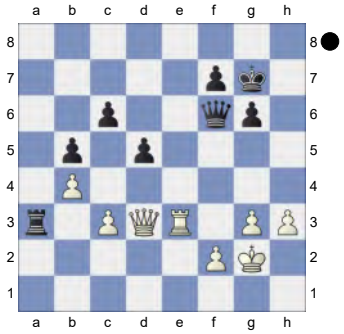


26.axb5 axb5 27.Rxa8 Rxa8 28.g3 Kg8 29.Nxf6+ Qxf6= Endgame KQR-KQR **30.Kg2 Kg7**

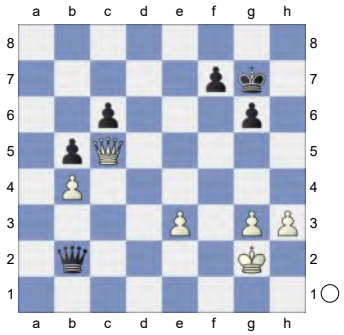


31.b4 Ra3 32.Re3

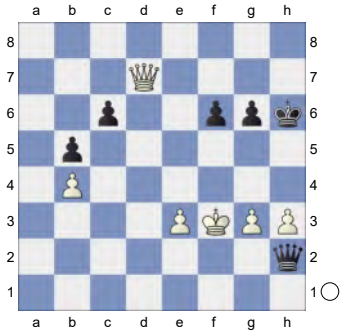
(Diagram)



Rxc3! 33.Qxc3 d4 34.Qc5 dxe3 35.fxe3 KQ-KQ **35...Qb2+**

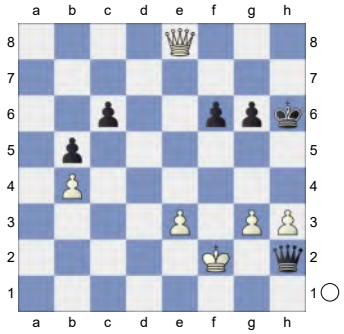


36.Kf3 Qh2 37.Qd4+ Kg8 38.Qd8+ Kg7 39.Qd4+ f6 40.Qd7+ Kh6



41.Qe8 White threatens Qh8+ and mate. **41...Qh1+ 42.Kf2 Qh2+ 43.Kf3** Threatening mate with Qh8+. **43...Qh1+ 44.Kf2 Qh2+**

(Diagram)

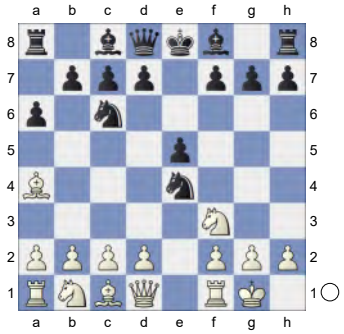


An interesting draw.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)
½-½

135	**C83**
□ **Bitbybyte**	**2699**
■ **Lynx**	**2378**
Classical	22.08.2024

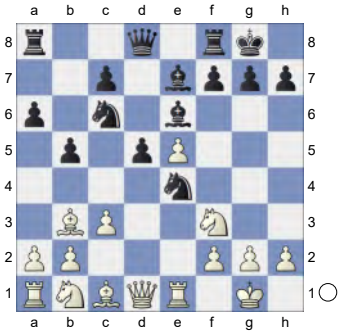
[Kitty Kat]

Rapid 20min+8sec
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
C83: Partie espagnole (défense ouverte, variante principale)
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Re1 0-0

(Diagram)



11.h3 Bc5N

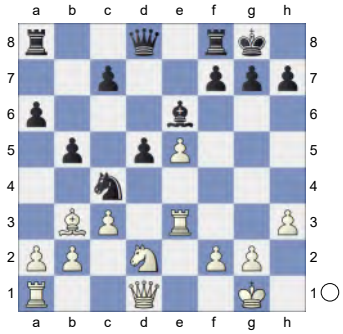
[11...b4 12.Ba4 Na5 13.Nd4 bxc3 14.Nxc3 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Rb8 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Qg4 Rb6 18.Be3 c5 19.Rab1 Nc4 20.Rxb6 Qxb6 21.Bc1 Kh8 22.Bc2 g6 23.Bh6 Rg8 24.Qf3 Qb2 25.Qf7 Qxc2 26.Qxe7 9.♘d2 a5/ 14.♕c2 ♘gf6 15.♗d3 (2665)-Wieland,S (2065) Garmisch Partenkirchen 2023 CHECK99 [John Watson] 1-0]

[11...Qd7 12.Bc2 *(12.Nbd2 Nc5 13.Bc2 d4 14.cxd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Qxd4 16.Qh5 Nd3 17.Bxd3 Qxd3 18.Ne4 Rad8 19.Bf4 c5 20.Re3 Qd4 21.Rae1 Bd5 22.Bg5 Bxg5 23.Nxg5 h6 24.Rg3 hxg5 25.Qxg5 g6 26.Rg4 Be6* Bologan,V-Fressinet,L Corte 2005 [LesEchecs.com] 1-0 (61) *)* 12...Rad8 13.Nbd2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Bf5 15.Bxf5 Qxf5 16.Qf4 Qxf4 17.Bxf4 d4 18.Rac1 dxc3 19.Rxc3 Nb4 20.Rxc7 Rfe8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.Nxg5 f6 23.Nf7 Rd2 24.e6 h5 25.Re4 Nxa2 26.Rc6 Carlsen,M (2830)-Caruana,F (2794) Toronto 2023 1-0 (36)]

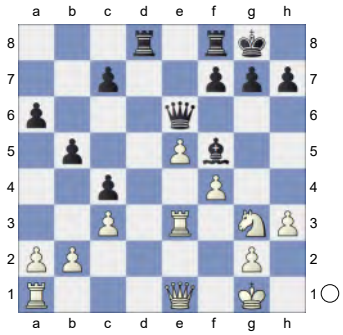
12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Rxe3 The position is equal. **13...Na5 14.Nbd2 Nxd2 15.Nxd2 Nc4**

[15...c5 keeps more tension. 16.Bc2 Nc4 17.Rg3 Qh4]

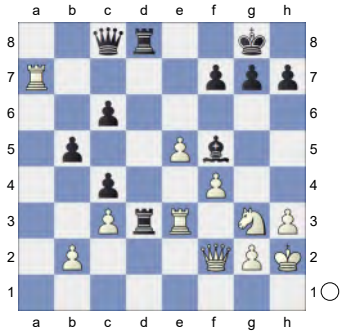
(Diagram)



16.Bxc4 dxc4 17.Qe1 Qe7 18.f4 Rad8 19.Ne4 Bf5 20.Ng3 Qe6



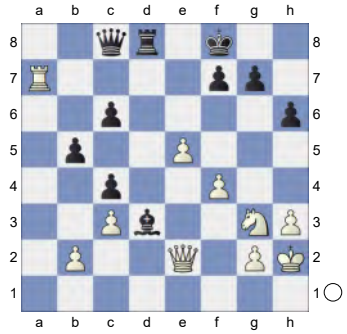
21.a4 Qc8 22.axb5 axb5 23.Qf2 Rd3 24.Ra7 Rfd8 25.Kh2 c6



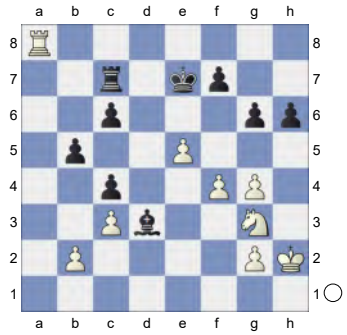
26.Re1 h6 27.Re7 Rd2 28.Re2 Rxe2 29.Qxe2 Kf8 30.Ra7 Bd3 1.02/19

[30...g6!± 0.32/21]

(Diagram)

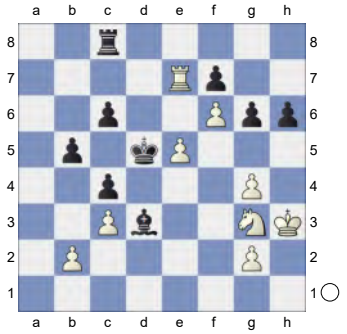


31.Qh5 0.54/20
[31.Qe3± 1.02/19]
31...Rd7± **32.Qg4→** White has some attack. **32...Rc7** White must now prevent ...Qxg4. **33.Ra1** 0.77/19
[33.Ra5± 0.41/20 is more appropriate.]
33...Qxg4± **34.hxg4** Endgame Strongly threatening Ra8+. KRB-KRN **34...g6** **35.Ra8+!** **Ke7!**

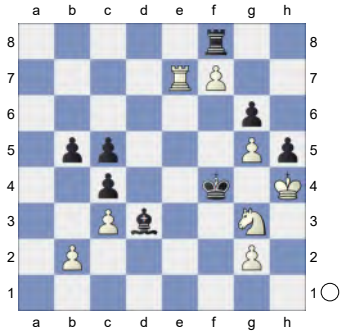


36.f5 **Bb1** 2.05/20 Black cannot hold the game after this.
[36...c5± 0.74/20]
37.f6++- **Ke6** **38.Re8+** **Kd5** **39.Kh3** Threatens to win with Re7. **39...Bd3?** 3.42/27
[39...Ra7 1.80/20 is a better defense. 40.g5 *(40.Re7 Ra8±)* 40...h5]
40.Re7 **Rc8**

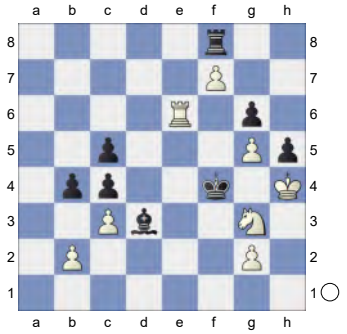
(Diagram)



41.g5! **h5**
[41...hxg5? 42.Kg4]
42.Rxf7 aiming for Re7. **42...Kxe5** **43.Re7+** **Kf4** 4.19/28
[⌓43...Kd6 2.75/21 44.Ne2 Bxe2]
44.f7 **Rf8** **45.Kh4** **c5**

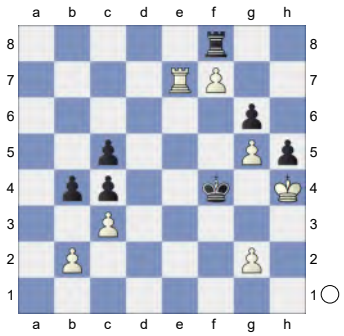


46.Re6! **b4**
[46...Rxf7? 47.Rf6+ Ke3 48.Rxf7+-]



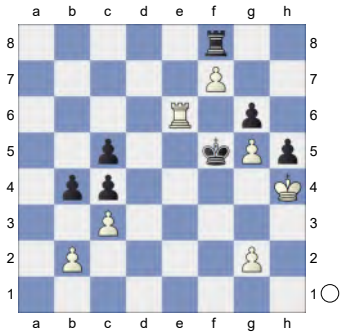
47.Ne2+! **Bxe2** **48.Rxe2** KR-KR
48...Kf5 **49.Re7** **Kf4**

(Diagram)

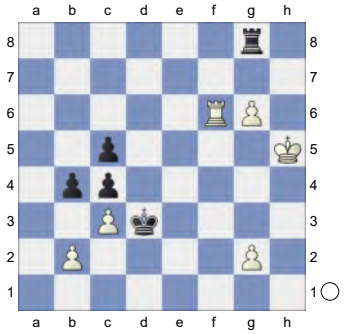


50.Re6! Kf5

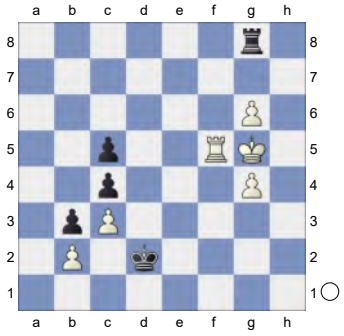
[50...Rxf7? 51.Rf6+ Rxf6 52.gxf6+-]



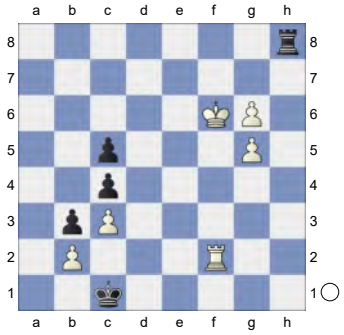
51.Rf6+ Ke4 52.Rxg6 Rxf7 53.Rf6 Rg7 54.g6 Kd3 55.Kxh5 Rg8



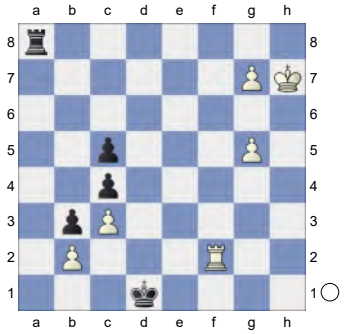
56.Kh6 Rh8+ 57.Kg5 Rg8 58.Rf4 b3 59.g4 Ke3 60.Rf5 Kd2



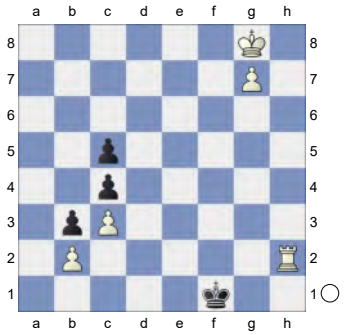
61.Kh6 Kc1 62.Rf2 Rh8+ 63.Kg7 Rh4 64.g5 Rh1 65.Kf6 Intending g7 and mate. **65...Rh8**



66.g7 Rd8 67.Ke7 Ra8 68.Kf7 Ra7+ 69.Kg6 Ra8 70.Kh7 Kd1

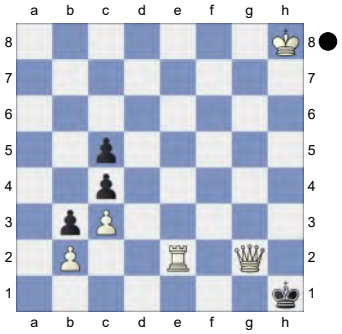


71.g8Q Rxg8 72.Kxg8 KR-K3P **72...Ke1 73.Rh2 Kd1 74.g6 Ke1 75.g7 Kf1**



76.Kh8 Kg1 77.Rd2 White mates. **77...Kh1 78.Re2 Kg1 79.g8Q+ Kh1 80.Qg2#**

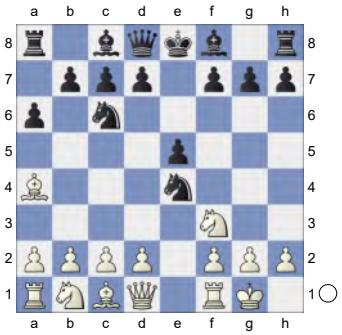
(Diagram)



Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.19 (very precise)
1-0

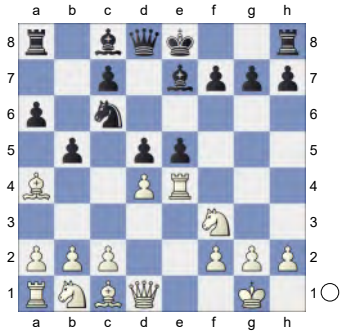
136 **C80**
☐ **Muzychuk,Anna** **2520**
■ **Vaishali,Ramesh Babu** **2475**
E Candidates 2024 | women (12) 18.4.24
[Kitty Kat]

C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

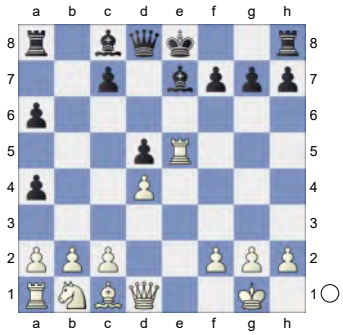


6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 d5

(Diagram)



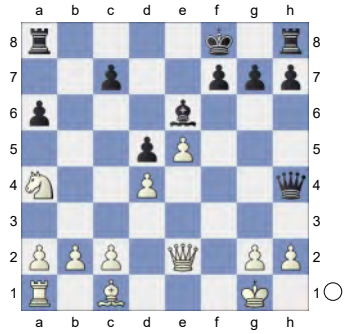
9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 Threatens to win with Bb3. White is slightly better.
10...bxa4



11.Qe2 0.35/19
[⌓11.Nc3 0.70/19 c6 12.Nxa4]
11...Be6 12.f4 Kf8 13.Nc3
[13.f5 Bd7 14.Nc3 f6 15.Re3 Bxf5 16.Qf3 Bd7 17.Nxd5 Bc6 18.c4 Bb4 19.Re6 Bxd5 20.cxd5 Qd7 21.Bf4 Re8 22.Rc6 Bd6 23.Bxd6+ cxd6 24.Rac1 h5 25.h3 Qf7 26.Rc8 Kg8 27.Qe4 Kf8 Garifullina,L (2451)-Aradhya,G (2365) Doha QAT 2024 [Kitty Kat] 1-0]
13...Bd6 14.Nxa4 Bxe5N
[14...Qf6 15.Be3 Bxe5 16.dxe5 *(16.fxe5 Qg6 17.Nc5 h5 18.h4 Kg8 19.Rf1 Kh7 20.Bg5 Rhf8 21.Rf4 Rab8 22.b3 Rb6 23.Rf2 Kg8 24.a4 Ra8 25.Kh2 a5 26.Qf3 Rb4 27.Qf4 Rb6 28.Kg1 Rbb8 29.Kh2 Rb6 30.Kg1 Rbb8* Wieczorek,O (2505)-Hagner,B (2361) Vrnjacka Banja SRB 2023 [Kosten,Tony] ½-½ (32) *)*
16...Qg6 17.Nc5 Kg8 18.c3 h5

19.a4 Bf5 20.a5 h4 21.b4 Qh5 22.Qd2 c6 23.h3 Rh6 24.Kh2 Rg6 25.Bf2 Rh6 26.Re1 Kh7 27.Be3 Rg6 28.Bf2 Rh6 29.Be3 Juilfs,G (2558)-De Almeida,C (2442) Chessfriend.com 2020 200 Traps In The Opening [Nyback/Meyer,CD] ½-½ (31)]

15.fxe5 Qh4

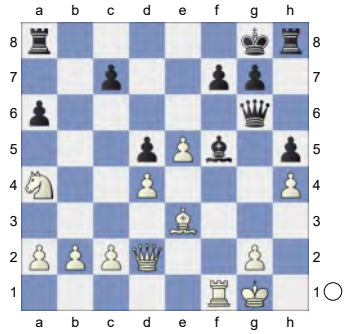


16.Be3 White has compensation.

16...Qg4 17.Qd2 h5 18.h3 Qg6 19.h4 0.09/21

[19.Nc3± 0.42/18]

19...Kg8 20.Rf1 Bf5

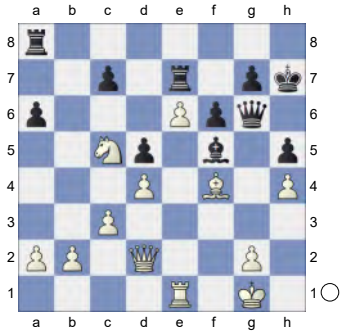


21.c3 Kh7 22.Nc5 Rhf8 23.Bf4 f6 24.e6 Rfe8 25.Re1

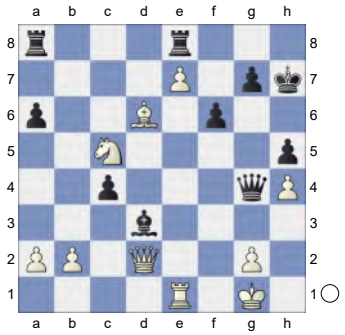
[Don't play 25.Bxc7 Bxe6 26.b3 Bf5∓]

25...Re7

(Diagram)



26.c4 dxc4 27.d5 Bd3 28.d6 cxd6 29.Bxd6 Ree8 30.e7 Qg4



31.Qf2 -0.43/21 Inhibits Qd4.

[Of course not 31.Nxd3 Qd4+ 32.Qe3 Qxd6 33.Qe4+ g6∓]

[31.Ne6= -0.01/21 was preferrable.]

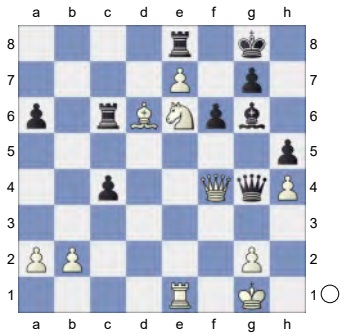
31...Bf5 32.Rf1 Bg6 33.Re1 -1.16/22

[33.a3= -0.28/20 keeps the balance.]

33...Rac8∓ 34.Ne6 Rc6 35.Qf4 -2.12/25

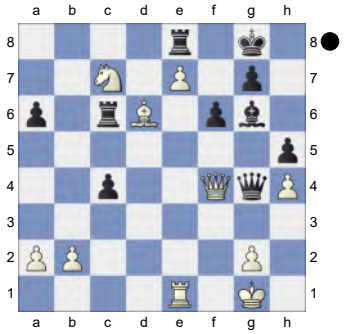
[35.Qd2∓ -1.13/21]

35...Kg8

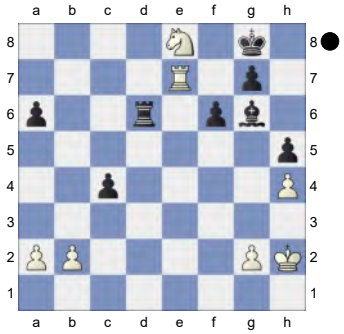


36.Nc7

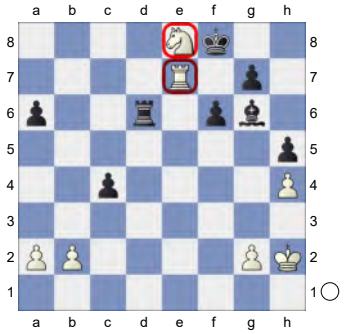
(Diagram)



Rxe7!! **37.Rxe7** Black must now prevent Qxg4. **37...Qd1+** **38.Kh2** **Qxd6** **39.Qxd6** **Rxd6-+** Endgame KRB-KRN **40.Ne8**

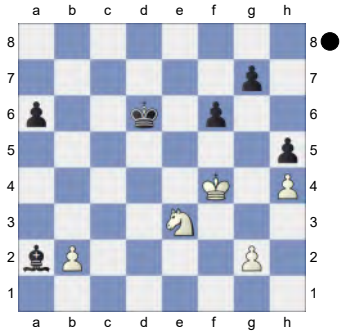


Kf8!

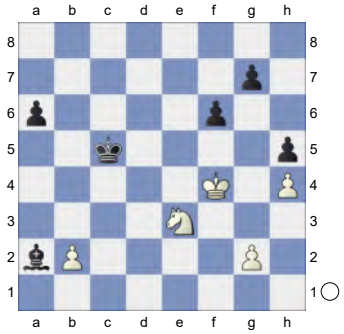


41.Nxd6 **Kxe7** **42.Nxc4** KB-KN **42...Bf7!** **43.Ne3** **Bxa2** **44.Kg3** -2.52/22
[44.Nf5+∓ -1.39/23 Kf8 45.Kg3]
44...Kd6 **45.Kf4**

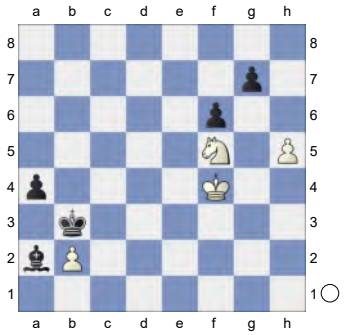
(Diagram)



Kc5!

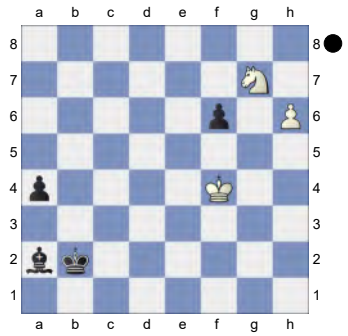


46.g4 **hxg4** **47.Nxg4?** -4.85/26
[47.Kxg4 -2.40/24 g6 48.h5 gxh5+ 49.Kxh5]
47...a5 **48.Ne3** -6.63/27
[48.Ke3 -3.18/26]
48...a4 Black is clearly winning. **49.h5** **Kb4** **50.Nf5** **Kb3**

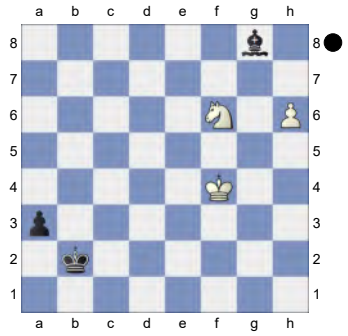


51.Nxg7 **Kxb2** Hoping for ...a3. **52.h6**

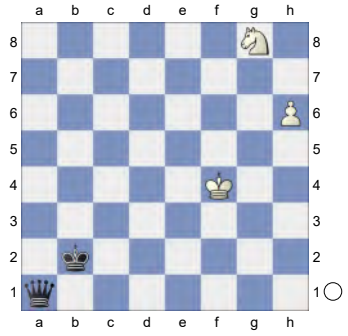
(Diagram)



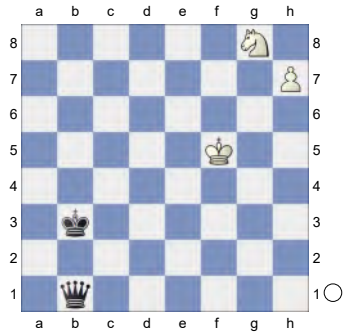
Bg8! Strongly threatening ...a3. **53.Ne8 a3** And now ...a2 would win. **54.Nxf6**



a2! 55.Nxg8
[55.Kf5 a1Q]
55...a1Q



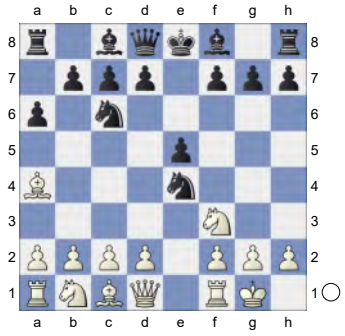
(-> ...Qc1+) **56.h7 Kb3 57.Kf5 Qb1+**



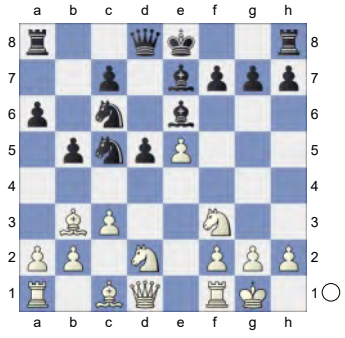
Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.07 (flawless)
0-1

137 **C83**
□ **Efimenko,Zahar** **2703**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano** **2712**
12. Karpov Int (7) 11.10.2011
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

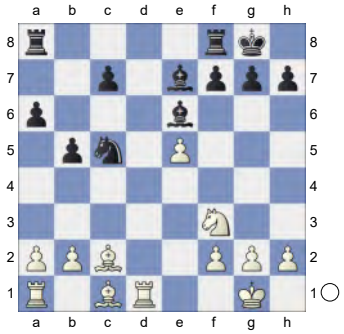


6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Be7

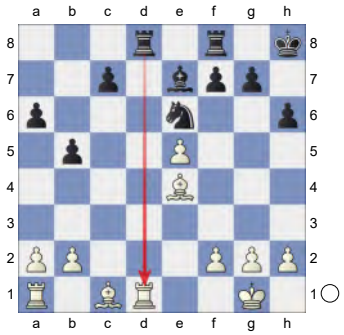


11.Bc2 d4 12.cxd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Nf3 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 0-0

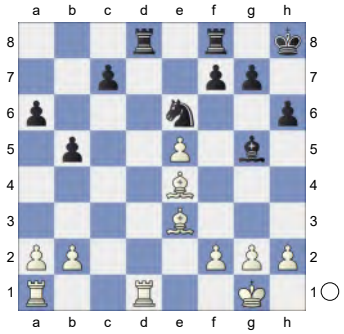
(Diagram)



16.Ng5 White has an edge. **16...h6 17.Bh7+ Kh8 18.Nxe6 Nxe6 19.Be4 Rad8**



20.Be3 Bg5



21.Bxg5 hxg5 22.Kf1 g6 23.Ke2N -0.11/22

[⌓23.Bd5 0.21/20]

[23.Rac1 Kg7 24.g3 g4 25.Bd5 Rfe8 26.Bc6 Rh8 27.Kg2 Nd4 28.Bb7 c6 29.Bc8 Ne2 30.Rxd8 Nxc1 31.Rxh8 Kxh8 32.a3 Nd3 33.b3 a5 34.Bxg4 Nxe5 35.Be2 f5 36.f4 Nf7 37.b4 axb4 Buchicchio,G (2774)-Krapivin,V (2574) Magyarorszag (ch) 42/273 2000 Telechess CBM 89 [Lutikov,A] ½-½ (54) 38.axb4 Nd8 39.Bf3 Kg7 40.Kf2 Kf6 41.Ke3 Ke7 42.h4 Kd6 43.g4 fxg4 44.Be4 c5 45.bxc5+ Kxc5 46.Bxg6 Kd6 47.h5 Ke7 48.h6 Kf6 49.h7 Kg7 50.f5 b4 51.Kf4 b3 52.f6+ Kh8 Anand,V (2791)-Carlsen,M (2863) Shamkir 2015 CBM 166 [Pavlovic,Milos] ½-½ (54)]

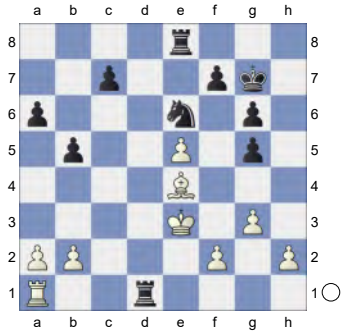
23...Kg7 24.g3 Rfe8 0.00/21

[24...g4∓ -0.36/20]

25.Ke3

[25.Bc6!? Re7 26.Ke3=]

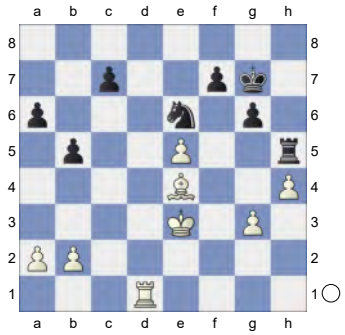
25...Rxd1



26.Rxd1= Endgame KRB-KRN **26...Nc5 27.f4 gxf4+ 28.Kxf4** -0.51/24

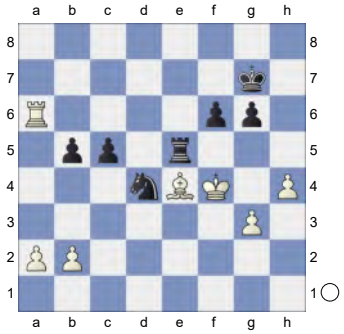
[28.gxf4= -0.01/24 Rh8 29.Bd5]

28...Ne6+!∓ 29.Ke3 Rh8 30.h4 Rh5

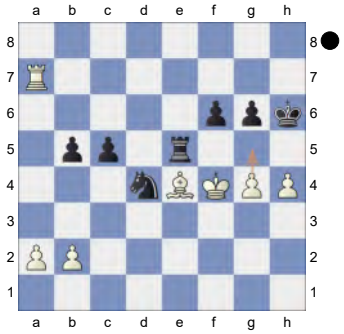


31.Rd5 c6 32.Rd6 Rxe5 33.Kf3 c5 34.Rxa6 Nd4+ 35.Kf4 The position is equal. **35...f6**

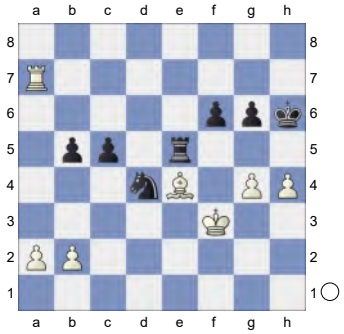
(Diagram)



aiming for ...g5+. **36.Ra7+ Kh6 37.g4**



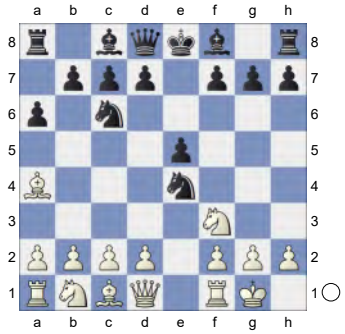
Hoping for g5+! **37...Ne6+ 38.Kf3 Nd4+**



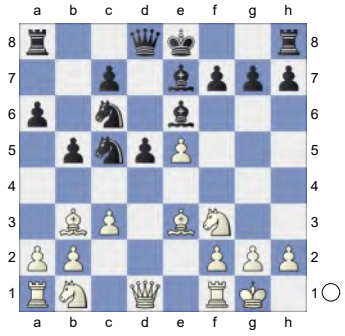
Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)
½-½

138 **C83**
☐ **Dominguez Perez,Leinier** **2713**
■ **Smeets,Jan** **2651**
19. Amber Rapid (10) 24.03.2010
[Kitty Kat]

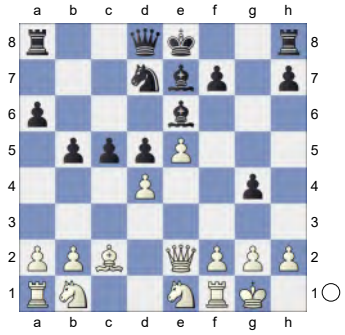
C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Nc5

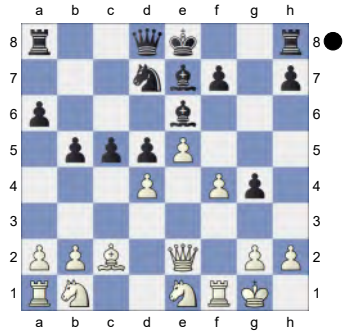


11.Bc2 Nd7 12.Bd4 g5 13.Qe2 g4 14.Ne1 White has an edge. **14...Nxd4 15.cxd4 c5**

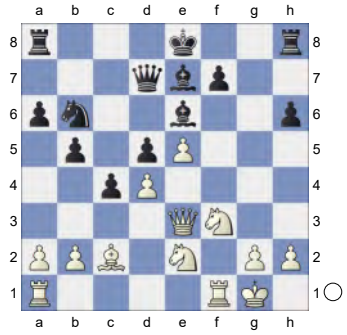


16.f4N
[16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Nd3 Bd4 18.Nd2 Rc8 19.Nb3 Bb6 20.Rad1 Rc4 21.g3 Qg5 22.Qd2 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 Qxe5 24.Bd3 Ra4 25.Nc1 h5 26.Bc2 h4 27.Nd3 Qf6 28.Bxa4 hxg3 29.Qf4 gxf2+ 30.Rxf2 Qxf4 Rocha,W (2562)-15. ♘c4 0-0 16. ♕e5 ♖ab8 (2660) corr 2007 Telechess CBM 89 [05: Queen Against Rook and

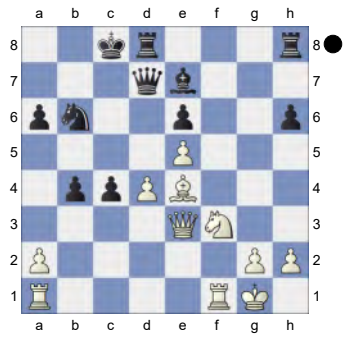
Bishop/Knight] (51) 31.Nxf4 bxa4 32.Rdd2 Kd7 33.Kf1 Bxf2 34.Rxf2 Kd6 35.Ke1 d4 36.Rd2 Bf5 37.Rxd4+ Ke5 38.Rxa4 Rxh2 39.Ne2 Bd3 40.Nc1 Be4 41.Ra5+ Kf4 42.Rxa6 Rh1+ 43.Kd2 Rxc1 44.Kxc1 g3 45.Rf6+ Bf5 Rodriguez, W (2562)-Vallejo Pons,F (2660) Calvia ESP 2007 [Glenn Flear] 0-1 (51) 46.Rd6 g2 47.Rd1 Ke3 48.a4 Bd3 49.Re1+ Kf2 50.Kd2 f5 51.b4 f4 Arencibia Rodriguez,W (2562)-Vallejo Pons,F (2660) Calvia 2007 CI1-130 [Glenn Flear] (51)]



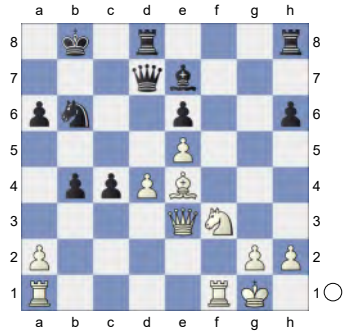
Black must now prevent f5. **16...gxf3!**
[16...cxd4? 17.f5+-]
17.Nxf3 c4 18.Nc3 Nb6 19.Qe3
[19.Qd2 is more complex. Kd7 20.Ne2 Kc7 21.Ng3]
19...h6 20.Ne2 Qd7



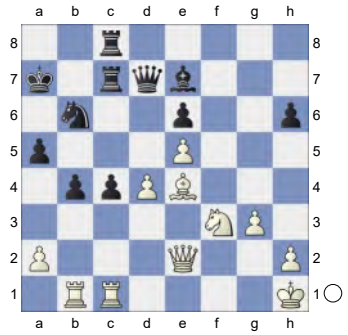
21.Nf4 0-0-0 22.b3 b4 23.bxc4 -0.24/19
[Don't play 23.Nxe6 fxe6 24.Ne1 Kb8=]
[White should try 23.Rfb1± 0.52/17]
23...dxc4= 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.Be4 -0.73/17
[25.a3!= -0.15/18]



25...Kb8!∓

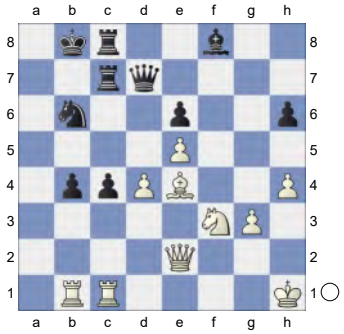


26.Qe2 Rc8 27.Kh1 Rc7 28.Rfc1 Ka7 29.Rab1 a5 30.g3 Rhc8

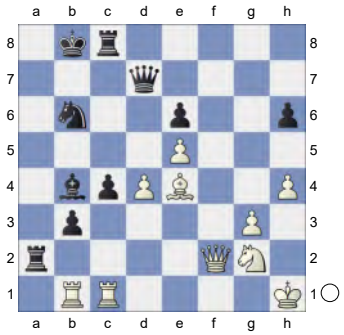


31.h4 Nd5 32.Qd2 -1.68/18
[32.Ra1∓ -1.34/20]
32...Bf8 -1.18/16
[32...a4-+ -1.68/18 Strongly threatening ...b3. 33.Kh2 *(33.Qxh6? b3∓)* 33...h5]
33.a3? -3.04/18
[33.Ne1∓ -1.18/16]

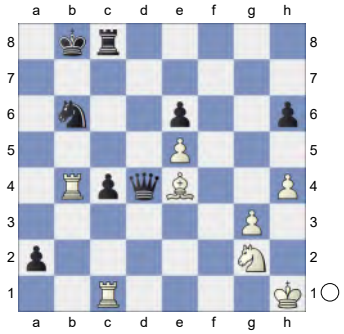
33...Kb8? -0.49/17
[33...c3-+ -3.04/18 34.Qf2 bxa3]
34.axb4∓ axb4 Hoping for ...b3. **35.Qe2 Nb6**



36.Qf2 Ra7 -0.53/18
[36...b3∓ -0.92/18 37.Nd2 Bb4]
37.Ne1 -1.33/18
[37.Nd2∓ -0.53/18]
37...b3 -0.39/19
[37...Be7∓ -1.33/18 ...b3 is the strong threat. 38.Nf3 h5]
38.Ng2? -2.53/19
[White has to play 38.Rxc4!∓ -0.39/19 Rxc4 39.Qxf8+ Kc7 40.Nf3 *(40.Rxb3? Qxd4 41.Bg2 Rc1-+)*]
38...Ba3 -1.04/18
[38...Bb4-+ -2.53/19 And now ...Ra2 would win. 39.Nf4 Ra2]
39.Rc3 -2.30/19
[39.Rxc4∓ -1.04/18 is a better defense. Rxc4 40.Rxb3]
39...Bb4-+ 40.Rcc1 Ra2



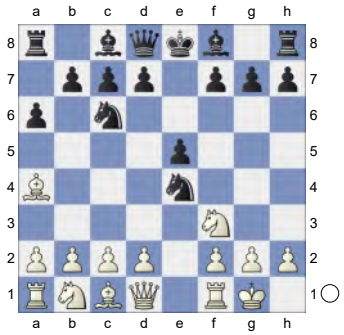
41.Qxa2 -10.12/19
[41.Rb2 -3.52/18 Ra3 42.Re2]
41...bxa2 42.Rxb4 Qxd4



Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/ Black=0.29 (precise)
0-1

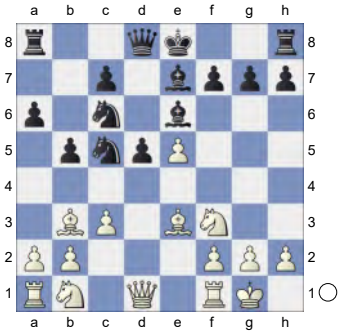
139 **C83**
□ **Zelcic,Robert** **2483**
■ **Geirnaert,Steven** **2430**
Bundesliga 2023-24 (7) 03.02.2024
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Nc5

(Diagram)



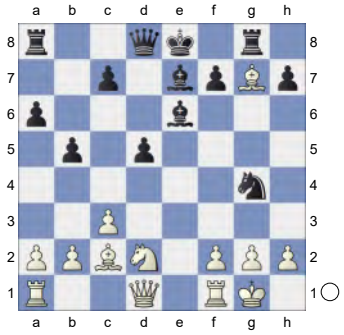
11.Bc2 Nd7 12.Nbd2N
[12.Re1 Ndxe5 *(12...0-0 13.Bf4 Nb6 14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 c5 16.Nd2 Nc4 17.Nb3 Nxb2 18.Qb1 c4 19.Bxh7+ Kh8 20.Re3 Qc8 21.Bc2 c3 22.Nc5 Bxc5 23.Rxc3 Bxd4 24.Rxc8 Raxc8 25.a4 bxa4 26.Ra2 Rc4 27.Be3* Hermann,J (2620)-Grabinsky,J (2605) Athens 1991 Telechess CBM 89 [Beyen, FS] ½-½ (56) *)* 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bd4 Nc6 15.Bxg7 Rg8 16.Qh5 Qd6 *(16...Kd7 17.Bh6 Bd6 18.f4 Kc8 19.Nd2 Kb7 20.f5 Bd7 21.Nf3 f6 22.Rad1 Ne5 23.Nxe5 Bxe5 24.Rxd5 Rxg2+ 25.Kxg2 Bc6 26.Be4 Bxd5 27.Qf3 c6 28.Bxd5 Qxd5 29.Qxd5 cxd5 30.Rxe5* 14.g4 hg4 15. ♗f6 ♗f6-Kramnik,V Tromso 2023 EXT 89op [Lane, CCYB6] *)* 17.Qh6 0-0-0 18.a4 b4 19.Bxh7 Rge8 *(19...d4 20.Bxg8 Rxg8 21.Nd2 dxc3 22.Ne4 Qd5 23.bxc3 b3 24.Rad1 Qc4 25.Bf6 Bf5 26.Qf4 Bh3 27.g3 Rg4 28.Qf3 Ba3 29.Nd2 Qxa4 30.Nxb3 Rg8 31.Nd4 Bd7 32.Ra1* 1-0 (32) Vit Spelar Sgf3 (2751)-Rakhmatullin,K (2633) Skopje 2000 CBM 64 [List,Paul M] *)* 20.Nd2 1...e5: Theory-Ruy Lopez]

12...Ndxe5 13.Nxe5
[13.Re1 feels hotter. 0-0 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Qh5]

13...Nxe5 14.Bd4 The position is equal.

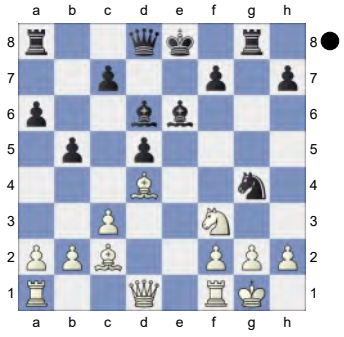
14...Ng4 15.Bxg7 -0.59/22
[White should play 15.Re1= 0.04/19 Nf6 16.Nb3]

15...Rg8∓

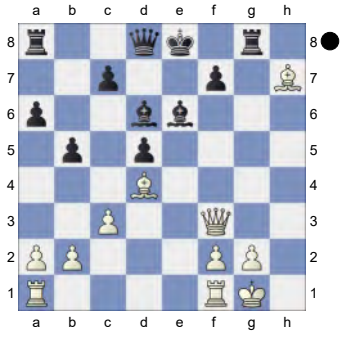


16.Bd4! Bd6 0.01/20
[16...c5∓ -0.41/22 might be stronger. 17.Bxh7 Rg5]

17.Nf3

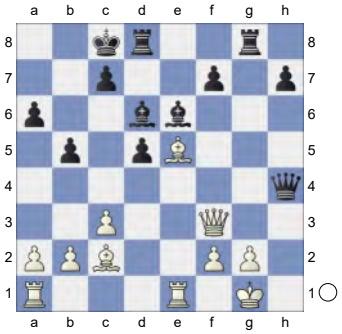


Nxh2! 18.Re1
[18.Bxh7? Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3

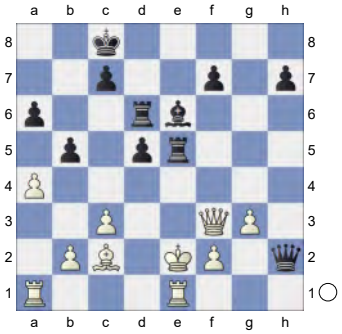


Qh4!-+]
[18.Nxh2 Bxh2+]

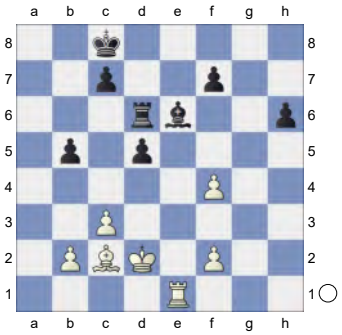
18...Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 Qh4 20.Be5 Prevents Qh2+. And now Bxd6 would win. **20...0-0-0**



21.a4 Rg5 22.Bxd6 -0.78/21
[22.g3∓ -0.40/24]
22...Rh5 Dancing on a razor blade.
23.g3 Qh2+ 24.Kf1 Rxd6 25.Ke2 Rh1 is the strong threat. **25...Re5+**

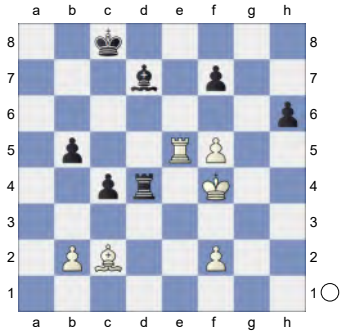


26.Kd2 Qh6+! 27.Qf4 Qxf4+ 28.gxf4 Rxe1 29.Rxe1∓ Endgame KRB-KRB
29...h6 30.axb5 axb5

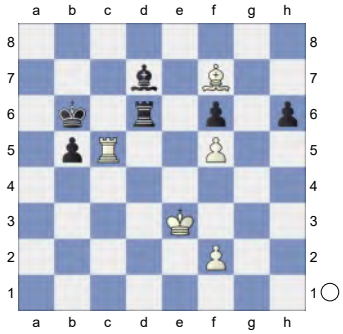


31.f5 Bd7 32.Ke3 c5 33.Kf4 d4 34.Re5 -1.14/22
[34.Rd1∓ -0.51/23]
34...c4 White must now prevent ...d3.
35.cxd4 Rxd4+

(Diagram)

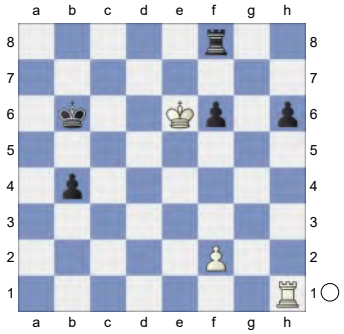


36.Ke3 Rd6 37.b3 -2.05/25
[37.Re7∓ -1.28/23 Rf6 38.Kf4]
37...cxb3 38.Bxb3 f6 39.Rc5+ Kb7 40.Bf7 -2.55/25
[40.Kf4 -1.64/24 was necessary.]
40...Kb6-+

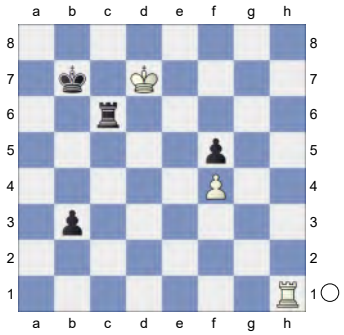


41.Rc1 Bxf5 42.Rh1 Rd7 43.Kf4 -3.20/26
[⌓43.Ba2 -2.21/25]
43...Rxf7 44.Kxf5 KR-KR **44...b4?** -0.44/26
[44...Kc5-+ -2.30/26 Threatens to win with ...b4. 45.Rxh6 Rb7]
45.Ke6 -1.83/24
[45.Rxh6∓ -0.44/26 Rf8 46.Ke4]
45...Rf8 -1.04/26
[45...Ra7-+ -1.83/24 46.f4 Kb5 47.Kxf6 Kc4]

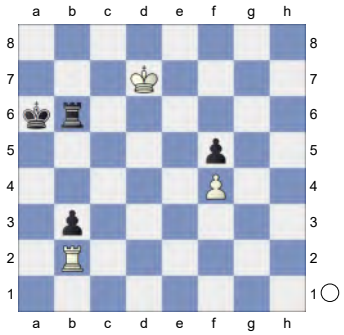
(Diagram)



46.Ke7? -4.03/26
[46.f4∓ -1.04/26]
46...Rc8 47.Rxh6? -8.36/27
[47.Kxf6 -3.38/23 Rf8+ 48.Ke5 Rxf2 49.Kd4]
47...Rc6 Black is clearly winning. **48.Kd7 Kb7**
[Inferior is 48...b3 49.Rh3 Rc7+ 50.Ke6 *(50.Kd8 b2=)* 50...Rc6+ 51.Kd7 Rc7+ 52.Ke6 *(52.Kd8 b2=)* 52...Rc6+ 53.Kd7=]
49.f4 b3 (-> ...b2) **50.Rh1 f5**



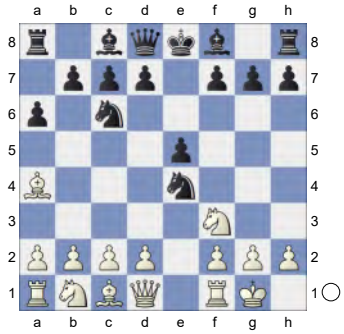
51.Rb1 Rb6 Strongly threatening ...Ka6.
52.Rb2 Ka6



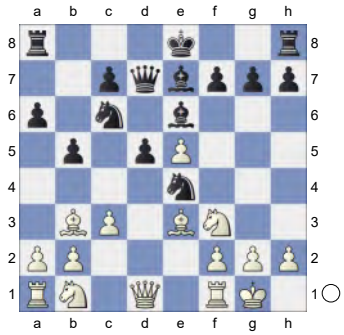
Weighted Error Value: White=0.64/Black=0.19 (very precise)
0-1

140 **C83**
□ **Kasparov,Garry** **2813**
■ **Shirov,Alexei** **2726**
20. ECC Izmir TUR (3) 05.10.2004
[Kitty Kat]

C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7
ChessCalisthenics: 'C83: Open Ruy Lopez: 9 c3 Be7' **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4**



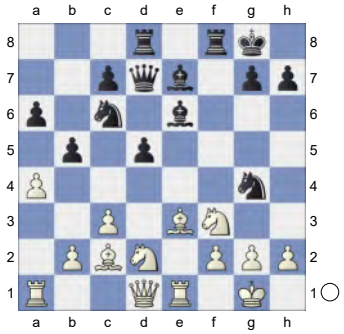
6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Qd7



11.Nbd2 Rd8 12.Re1 0-0 13.Bc2 f5 14.exf6! Nxf6 15.a4
[15.Ng5 Bf5 16.Bf4 Bc5 17.Nb3 Bxf2+ 18.Kxf2 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Ne4+ 20.Nxe4 Rxf4+ 21.Kg1 dxe4 22.Rxe4 Qf5 23.Re2 Qxc2
½-½ (23) Khalifman,A (2645)-Hjartarson,J (2605) Luzern 1993 CBM

38 [Hjartarson]]

15...Ng4



White is slightly better. **16.axb5 axb5 17.Bd4 Nxd4N**

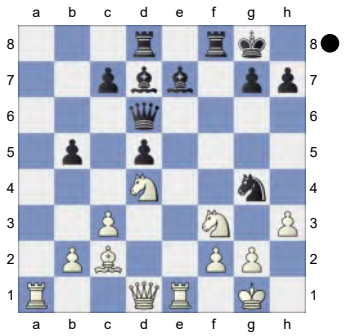
[17...Bf5 18.Bxf5 Qxf5 19.h3 Nh6 20.Nb3 Qd7 21.Nc5 Bxc5 22.Bxc5 Rf5 23.Qe2 Nf7 24.Qe6 Qxe6 25.Rxe6 Valerga,D (2499)-Sorin,A (2496) Argentina 2005 CI1-130 [Valerga,Diego]]

18.Nxd4 0.46/20

[18.cxd4± 1.09/20 Black must now prevent Qe2. Rde8 19.Qb1]

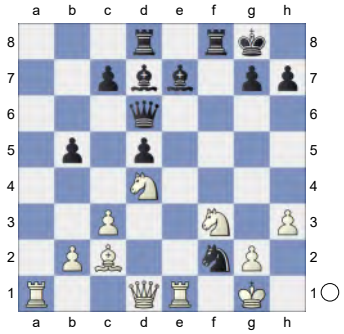
18...Qd6!± 19.N2f3↑ White has the initiative. **19...Bd7 20.h3** -0.32/21

[White should try 20.Qe2± 0.76/20 Rde8 21.Qd3 *(21.Nxb5 Qb6∓)*]



20...Nxf2!∓

(Diagram)



21.Kxf2 Hoping for Kg1. **21...Bh4+** 1.19/22 This bishop pair is nice.

[21...c5!= 0.16/21]

22.Kg1± White now steadily converts the win. **22...Bxe1 23.Qxe1 c5 24.Nb3** &Bianco is more active.

[24.Qh4 h6±]

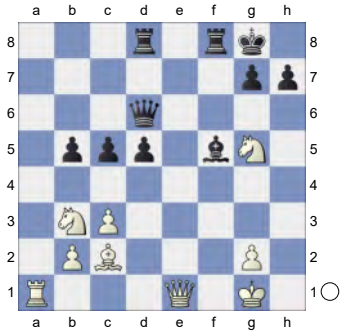
24...Bxh3 2.06/21

[24...Rde8± 1.44/19 25.Qf2 *(25.Qh4 g6±)* 25...c4]

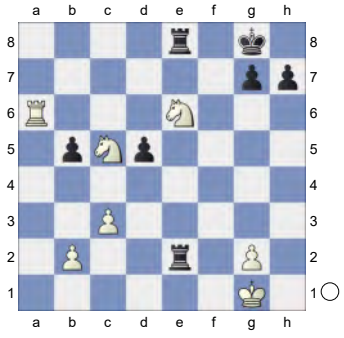
25.Ng5+-

[25.gxh3 Rxf3 26.Qh4 h6∓]

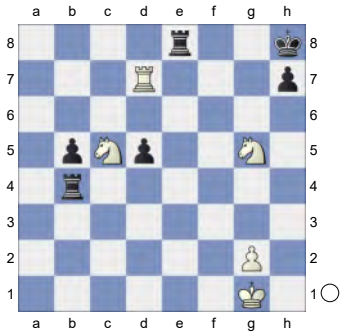
25...Bf5



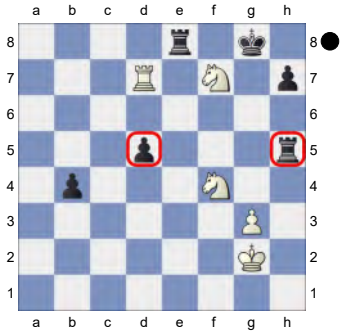
26.Bxf5 The board is on fire. **26...Rxf5 27.Qe6+ Qxe6 28.Nxe6 Re8 29.Nbxc5 Re5 30.Ra6 Re2**



31.b4 Rc2 32.Ra7 Rxc3 33.Rxg7+ Kh8 34.Rd7 Rc4 35.Ng5
[35.Rxd5 Rxb4 36.Ng5 h6 37.Nf7+ Kh7±]
35...Rxb4



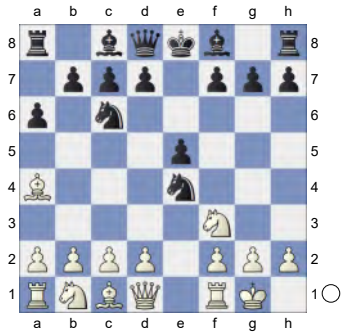
36.Nce6
[Not 36.Rxd5 h6 37.Nf7+ Kh7±]
[36.Nxh7 Re1+ 37.Kf2 Re5=]
[36.Rxh7+?! Kg8±]
36...Rh4 37.g3
[Less strong is 37.Rxd5 h6 38.Nf3 Rb4±]
[Worse is 37.Rg7 Rxe6 38.Nxe6 Re4=]
37...Rh5 38.Kg2 White has strong compensation. **38...b4** 3.35/23
[⌓38...d4 2.15/23 39.Rxd4 h6]
39.Nf7+ Kg8 40.Nf4!



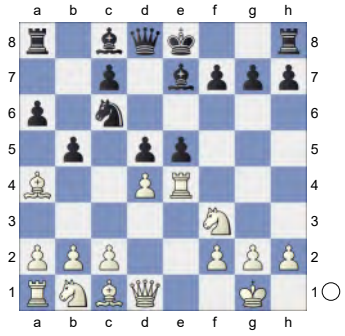
Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.22 (precise)
1-0

141 **C80**
□ **Andreikin,Dmitry** **2729**
■ **Aliakbarov,Anar** **2154**
Titled Tue 9. Jan Late (1) 09.01.2024
[Kitty Kat]

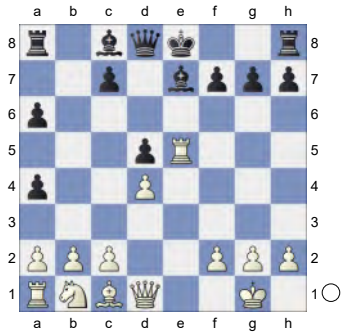
C84: Closed Ruy Lopez: Unusual White 6th moves
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4



6.d4 Be7 7.Re1 b5 8.Rxe4 Threatens to win with Bb3. **8...d5**



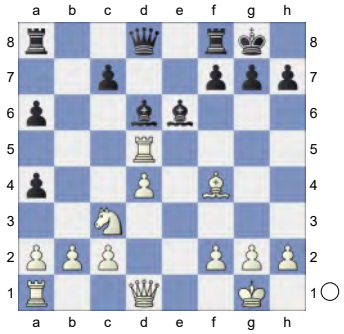
9.Nxe5! Nxe5 10.Rxe5 White is slightly better. **10...bxa4**



11.Nc3 0-0 12.Rxd5 Bd6 13.Bf4

[13.Bg5 Qd7 14.Bf4 a3 15.Bxd6 cxd6 16.Rb1 Qc6 17.Rg5 axb2 18.Nd5 Ra7 19.Rxb2 f5 20.Nf4 Re7 21.h4 Rfe8 22.Qd2 Qe4 23.Rb3 Qe1+ 24.Qxe1 Rxe1+ 25.Kh2 R1e4 26.Nh5 Rxh4+ 27.Kg3 Rg4+ Hakobyan,A (2620)-Tristan,L (2545) Chess.com INT 2023 1-0 (63)]

13...Be6

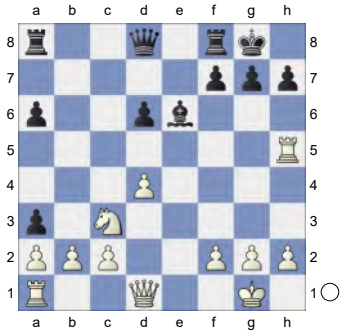


14.Bxd6 0.01/22

[14.Rxd6!± 0.45/21 cxd6 15.Ne4]

14...cxd6= 15.Rh5 a3N

[15...g6 16.Rh6 a3 17.b3 Rc8 18.Na4 Qg5 19.Qc1 f6 20.g3 Bf5 21.c4 Rce8 4) Ruy Lopez 5...Nxe4 6. d4 Be-9.Nxe5 Nxe5 10.Rxe5 with 11. N Lifetime Repertoires: Plichta's 1.e4 e5]



16.bxa3 -0.30/21

[White should play 16.b4 0.26/21]

16...Qc8? 1.23/21

[16...g6= -0.30/21 17.Rh6 Rc8 18.Qd2 Qa5 19.Ne4 Qxd2 20.Nxd2 d5 21.c4 dxc4 22.Ne4 Kg7 23.Rh4 c3 24.Nc5 c2 25.Rc1 Rb8 26.Re4 Rb1 27.Ree1 Rxc1 28.Rxc1 Rb8 29.Nd3 Rb1 0-1 (29) KID - Fianchetto Variation,7 (2395)-San Segundo Carrillo,P (2581) Bratto 2019 200 Traps In The Opening [List,Paul M]]

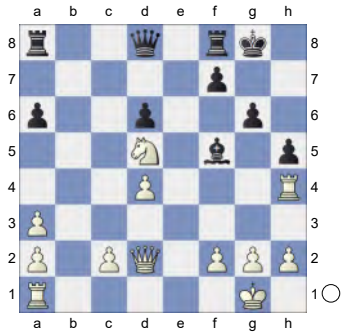
17.Qd3 Black is on the road to losing.

17...g6 18.Rh4 Bf5 1.95/21

[18...Qd8± 1.07/20 19.Rf4 Re8]

19.Qd2+- Strongly threatening Qh6!

19...h5 20.Nd5 Black must now prevent Ne7+. **20...Qd8**



Prevents Ne7+. **21.Rf4** aiming for Rxf5!

21...Be6 4.27/21

[21...Re8 2.03/20 22.c4 Rc8]

22.Nf6+ Kg7 23.Rf3 1.88/19

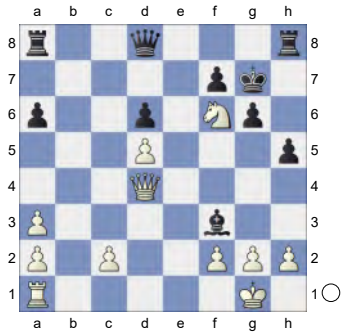
[⌓23.d5 4.15/20]

23...Rh8? 4.72/21

[23...Bg4 1.88/19 24.Rf4 d5]

24.d5 Bg4 25.Qd4 Ne8+ would kill now. **25...Bxf3** 11.11/19

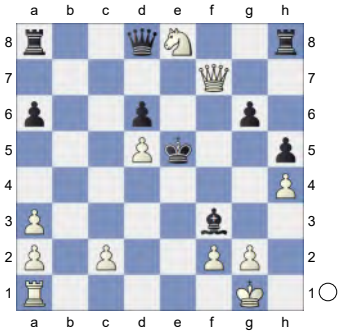
[⌓25...Kh6 4.84/20 26.Nxg4+ hxg4]



26.Ne8+! Discovered Attack (Double Check), Deflection **26...Kh6 27.Qxh8+**

5.37/5

[⌓27.Qg7+ 19.57/24 Kg5 28.h4+ *(28.Qxh8 Qxe8 29.Qc3 Bg4=)* 28...Kf5 29.Qxf7+ Ke5

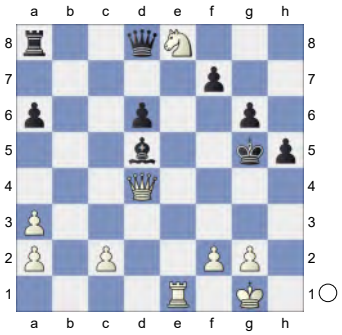


30.c3! Qxh4 31.gxf3 Qg5+ 32.Kf1]

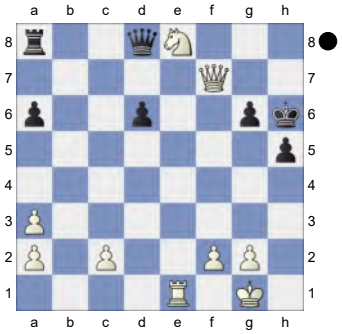
27...Kg5 28.Re1

[Weaker is 28.gxf3 Qxe8 29.Qc3 Kh6±]

28...Bxd5 29.h4+ Kxh4 30.Qd4+ Kg5

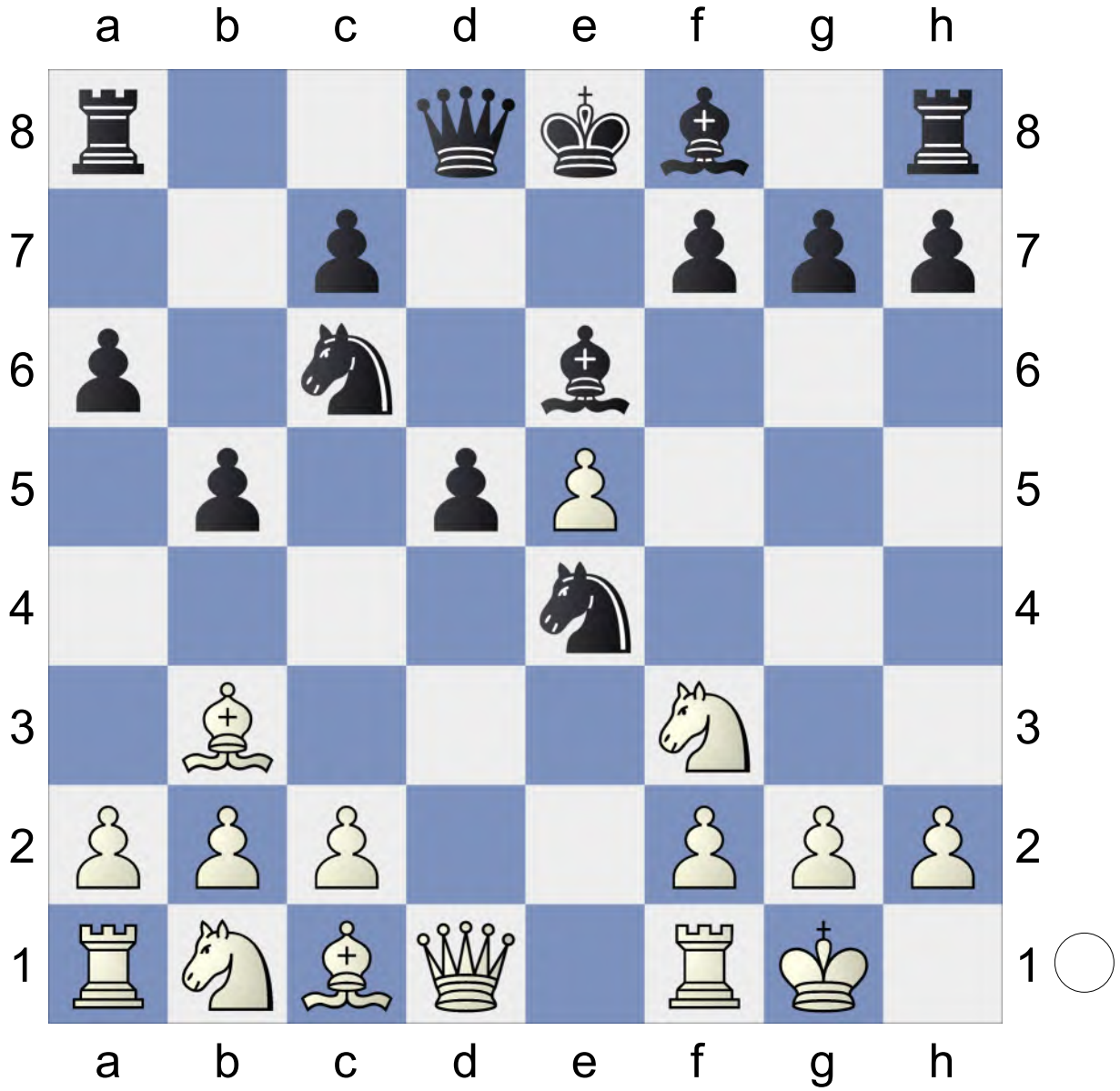


31.Qxd5+ Kh6 32.Qxf7



Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/ Black=0.80

1-0



C83

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6

	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	a4 b4[1]	a5[2] Nc5	Bg5[3] Qd7	Nbd2 h6	Bh4[4] Be7[5]	Bxe7 Nxe7[6]	=
2	Qe2 Nc5[7]	Rd1[8] Nxb3[9]	axb3 Be7[10]	c4[11] b4[12]	Nbd2[13] Qc8[14]	Nf1[15] dxc4[16]	 +-

	9	10	11	12	13	14	
3	. . .	. . .	cxb3	Nc3[17]	Bf4[18]	Rd2	
	. . .	. . .	Be7	0-0	Qd7[19]	Nd8[20]	∓
4	. . .	Rd1[21]	c4[23]	Bxc4	Be3	Qxe3[25]	
	Be7	0-0[22]	bxc4	Bc5[24]	Bxe3	Qb8[26]	+-
5	c3	Bc2[27]	Nbd2	Nb3	Nfd4[29]	cxd4[31]	
	Bc5	0-0	Bf5	Bg6[28]	Bxd4[30]	a5[32]	
6	. . .	. . .	Qd3	Qe2	Be3	Qxe3	
	. . .	. . .	Bf5	Qe7	Bxe3	Bg6[33]	∓
7	. . .	Nbd2	Bc2[34]	Nb3[36]	Nfd4[38]	Nxd4	
	. . .	0-0	f5[35]	Bb6[37]	Nxd4	Bxd4[39]	±
8	. . .	. . .	. . .	Rxf2	Nf1[40]	Kxf2	
	. . .	. . .	Nxf2	f6	Bxf2+	fxe5[41]	=
9	. . .	Qd3	Be3	exf6[44]	Bxd5[45]	Bxe6+[46]	
	. . .	0-0[42]	f6[43]	Qxf6	Rad8	Qxe6[47]	=
10	. . .	. . .	Nbd2	exf6[49]	a4[50]	axb5	
	. . .	. . .	f5[48]	Nxf6	Rb8[51]	axb5[52]	
11	. . .	Nd4[53]	Qe2	f4	Nc6	Nxe7	
	Nc5	Nxe5	Nc4	Be7	Qd6	Qxe7[54]	-+
12	Nbd2	c3	Bc2[56]	Re1[58]	Nb3?![60]	Nxe5	
	Nc5	g6[55]	Bg7[57]	Nd7[59]	Ndxe5	Nxe5[61]	
13	. . .	. . .	Bc2	Nb3[62]	Bb1	axb3	
	. . .	Be7	d4	d3[63]	Nxb3[64]	Bf5[65]	
14	. . .	. . .	Bxe6	cxd4[66]	a4[67]	axb5[69]	
	. . .	d4	Nxe6	Ncxd4	Bb4[68]	Nxb5[70]	±
15	. . .	. . .	Ng5	Nxe6	bxc3	Bc2![72]	
	. . .	. . .	dxc3[71]	fxe6	Qd3	Qxc3[73]	+-
16	. . .	. . .	. . .	Qf3	Bxf7+[75]	Bd5[76]	
	. . .	. . .	Qxg5	Bd7[74]	Ke7	Nxe5[77]	∞

	9	10	11	12	13	14	
17	. . .	. . .	Bc2	Re1[79]	Nb3[81]	Qxd7+!	
	. . .	Bg4	Qd7[78]	d4!?[80]	dxc3[82]	Bxd7[83]	
18	. . .	. . .	. . .	Re1[84]	Nf1[86]	Ng3	
	. . .	. . .	Be7	Bh5[85]	0-0	Bg6[87]	↑
19	. . .	. . .	. . .	Re1	Nf1[89]	Ng3[91]	
	. . .	. . .	Ne6?!	Bc5[88]	Ne7!?[90]	h5[92]	+-
20	Be3	Qe2[94]	Rd1[96]	c3[98]	Nd4	Bc2	
	Bc5[93]	0-0[95]	Ne7[97]	c6	Bb6	Qc7[99]	±
21	. . .	. . .	c3[100]	Rd1	Bxc5[101]	Nd4[103]	
	. . .	Qe7	0-0	Rad8	Qxc5[102]	Qb6□[104]	∓
22	. . .	c3[105]	Nbd2	Nxe4[108]	Qd5[109]	Bxd5	
	Be7	0-0[106]	Bg4[107]	dxe4	Qxd5[110]	exf3[111]	=
23	. . .	. . .	. . .	Qxd2[112]	Rfe1[113]	Bxc4	
	. . .	. . .	Nxd2	Na5	Nc4	dxc4[114]	-+
24	. . .	. . .	. . .	exf6	Re1[115]	h3[116]	
	. . .	. . .	f5	Nxf6	Qd7	Rae8[117]	±
25	. . .	. . .	Bc2	Re1[118]	Nxe5	Bd4[120]	
	. . .	Nc5	Nd7	Ndxe5[119]	Nxe5	Ng6[121]	
26	. . .	. . .	. . .	Re1[122]	Bb3	Bxd5[124]	
	. . .	. . .	Bg4	Ne6[123]	Nxe5	0-0[125]	±
27	. . .	. . .	Nbd2	Bc2[127]	exf6	Bf4[129]	
	. . .	Qd7	0-0[126]	f5[128]	Nxf6	Nh5![130]	→
28	. . .	. . .	. . .	h3[131]	Qxd2	Bg5	
	. . .	. . .	Rd8	Nxd2[132]	Na5	c5[133]	

[1] **9...Rb8** 10.axb5
[10.c3 Be7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Rd1 Nc5 13.Bc2 b4 14.Nbd2 b3 15.Bb1 Qc8 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Nd7 18.Nxb3 Rxb3 19.Qc2 Rh3 20.gxh3 g6 21.Bh6 Re8 22.Qc3+- 1-0 (80) Tregubov,P (2560)-Anton,T (2464) Chess.com INT 2021]
10...axb5 11.c3 Bc5 12.Nbd2

[12.Qd3 Bb6 13.Bc2 0-0 14.Bf4 Bf5 15.Qe2 Re8 16.Bd3 Nd6 17.Bxf5 Nxf5 18.Qd3 Qd7 19.Nbd2 Nfe7∞ Burn,A-Tarrasch,S/Ostende 1907]

12...0-0 13.Bc2 f5 14.Nb3

[14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Nb3± Kortschnoj]

14...Bb6 15.Nbd4

[15.Nfd4 Nxd4 16.cxd4 f4 17.f3 Ng3 18.Re1 Qh4 19.Nc5 Bxc5 20.dxc5 g5 *(20...c6 21.Ra6 Rbc8 22.b4 Nf5 23.Bxf5 Rxf5 24.Re2 Rh5 25.h3 Bxh3* 0-1 Napier,W-Lawrence,T/Cambridge 1904 (34)*)* 21.Ra7 Rf7 22.Ra6 Re8 23.Rxe6 Rxe6 24.hxg3 fxg3 25.Qxd5 Qh2+ 26.Kf1 Qg1+ 27.Ke2± Pillsbury,H-Marco,G/Vienna 1898 (35)]

15...Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Qe8

[16...Qd7 17.f3 Nc5 18.Kh1 f4 19.b4 Nb7 20.Qd3 g6 21.Qxb5 Qxb5 22.Nxb5 Nd8 23.Rd1 g5 24.Ba3 Nc6 25.Ba4 Nxe5 26.Re1 Be3 27.Nxc7 Bf7 28.Red1 d4 29.cxd4± Pillsbury,H-Janowski,D/Munich 1900]

[16...Bxd4 17.cxd4 f4 18.f3 *(18.b4 f3 19.gxf3 Ng5 20.Ra3 Nh3+ 21.Kh1 Qh4 22.Be3 Bf7 23.Bf5 Rb6 24.Bg4 Bh5 25.Bxh5 Qxh5 26.f4± ½-½* Alekhine, A-Vjachirev/Russia 1906 (42) Ftacnik,L: '½-½ Alekhine,A-Vjachirev/Russia 1906 (42)' *)* 18...Ng3 19.Rf2 Qh4 20.Bd2 Rb6 21.Bxf4 Qxf4 22.hxg3 Qxg3 23.f4 Qh4 24.f5± 1-0 Koehnlein,F-Yates,F/Hamburg 1910 (38)]

17.f3 Nc5 18.b4 Nb7 19.Kh1 Nd8 20.f4 c6 21.Bd3 Bc8 22.Ra2 Bxd4 23.cxd4 g6 24.Be3± ½-½ (31) Atkins/Bellingham-Blackburne/Lawrence/England 1905/

24...Rf7 25.Rf3 Rbb7 26.Ra8 Qd7 27.Rf2 Ra7 28.Ra2 Rxa2 29.Rxa2 Qb7 30.h3 Ne6 31.Qc1 Nd8 ½-½ Atkins/Bellingham-Blackburne/Lawrence/England 1905/

9...Bc5 10.axb5 axb5 11.Rxa8 Qxa8 12.Bxd5 Nxf2 13.Rxf2 0-0 14.Bxc6 Qxc6 15.Nd4 Rd8 16.c3 Qe4 17.Nd2 Rxd4 18.cxd4 Qxd4 19.Qf3 Bd5 20.Qg3+- 1-0 (58) Shevchenko,K (2652)-Niemann,H (2637) Chess.com INT 2022

≤9...Nc5 10.axb5±

[2] **10.Be3** Be7 11.Nbd2

[11.a5 0-0 12.Qd3 Nc5 13.Bxc5 Bxc5 14.c3 Ne7 15.Nbd2 bxc3 16.bxc3 Ba7 17.Nd4 Bd7 18.N2f3 c5 19.e6 Be8 20.Ng5 f5 21.Nf7 Rxf7 22.exf7+ Bxf7 23.Nxf5 c4∓ 0-1 (44) Van Foreest,J (2702)-Mamedyarov,S (2767) Wijk aan Zee 2022]

11...Nxd2

[11...0-0 12.Qe2 Nxd2 13.Bxd2 Na5 14.Ba2 c5 15.c3 b3 16.Bb1 Nc4 17.Bf4 Qd7 18.Bd3 Bf5 19.Bxc4 dxc4 20.Qxc4 Bd3 21.Rfd1 Rad8 22.Qxb3 Qf5= ½ (35) Gashimov,V (2625)-L'Ami,E (2550) Kusadasi 2006]

12.Qxd2 Na5=

10.c3 Be7! With a favourable transposition to C83.

10.Nbd2 45 Be7

[10...Nc5 4:47 11.c3 1:24

A) 11...bxc3 10:37 12.bxc3 34 Nxb3 2:57 13.Nxb3 2:03 Be7 31 14.Nfd4! 9:16

Qd7 17:15 15.Ba3 21:01 *(15.f4; 15.Re1)* 15...Nd8 14:04 *(15...Bxa3!? 16.Rxa3 Nxe5* Il n'est pas certain que les compensations Blanches soient suffisantes*)* 16.Qc1 4:53 Nb7 3:57 Un plan très lent pour pousser c5 17.Bxe7 16:09 Qxe7 12 18.f4± 1:08 c5! 1:41 19.f5! 44 Le ♔ Noir va être bloqué au centre cxd4 5:44 20.fxe6 8 fxe6 2:14 21.cxd4± 7 Nd8 7:22 22.Nc5+- 2:29 1-0 (40) Moussard,J (2608)-Nikolov,M (2539) Cappelle la Grande 2020;

B) 11...Qd7 12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 Nxb3 14.Nxb3 Be7 15.Qd3 0-0 16.Qg3 f6 17.Bf4 fxe5 18.Bxe5 Bd6 19.Rfc1 Bf5 20.Na5 Rf6 21.Qb3 Bxe5 22.dxe5± 1-0 (40) Kosteniuk,A (2504)-Muzychuk,M (2552) Saint Louis 2020;

C) 11...Be7 12.Nd4 Qd7 13.f4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Nxb3 15.Nxb3 0-0 16.Be3 a5 17.h3 f6 18.Qe2 Rac8 19.g4 f5 20.g5 c5 21.Nxc5 Bxc5 22.dxc5 d4 23.Rfd1 Rxc5 24.Rxd4± 0-1 (46) Kosteniuk,A (2471)-Oparin,G (2652) Chess.com INT 2020]

11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Bxe6 Qxd1 '!?'

[12...fxe6 13.Ng5 Bxg5 14.Qh5+ g6 15.Qxg5 0-0 16.Qg4 Qd5 17.Re1 Nd4 18.Bh6 Nxc2+- 0-1 Nunn,J (2600)-Huebner,R (2595) Nuremberg rapid 1990 (6)]

13.Rxd1 fxe6 14.Ng5 Bxg5 15.Bxg5 Rf8 16.Bh4 Rg8 17.Bg5 Rf8 18.Bh4 Rg8 19.Bg5 Rf8= ½-½ (19) Moussard,J (2626)-Santos Latasa,J (2588) Sitges 2020

[3] **11.Be3** Nxb3 12.cxb3 Qd7

[12...d4 13.Bg5 Qd5 14.Nbd2 h6 15.Bh4 Bc5 16.Nc4 0-0 17.Qd3 Rab8 18.h3 Rb5 19.Rfd1 Qd7 20.Nfd2 Ba7 21.Ne4 Nxe5 22.Nxe5 Rxe5-+ 0-1 (58) Movsesian,S (2653)-Ding,L (2766) Huaian 2016]

[12...Rc8 13.Nbd2 Be7 14.Qc2 Nb8 15.Bc5 0-0 16.Rfc1 c6 17.Nd4 Bxc5 18.Qxc5 Nd7 19.Qd6 Re8 20.Nxc6 Rxc6 21.Rxc6+- 1-0 (43) Movsesian,S (2666)-Mikhalevski,V (2526) Chess.com INT 2016]

13.Qc2 Bf5 14.Qc1 Rb8 15.Nh4 Be6 16.f4 Be7 17.Qe1 d4 18.Bc1 d3 19.Nf3 Rb5 20.Be3 Rxa5 21.Nbd2 0-0 22.Rc1 f5∓ ½-½ Movsesian,S (2635)-Motwani,P (2490)/Hastings 1996/ (40) Ftacnik,L: '½-½ Movsesian,S (2635)-Motwani,P (2490)/Hastings 1996/ (40)'

[4] **13.Bf4** Be7!=

[5] **13...g5** 14.Bg3 Bg7 15.c3∞ Kindermann-Marin, Novi Sad (ol) 1990 15...0-0 16.Bc2 bxc3 17.bxc3 Bf5 18.Bxf5 Qxf5 19.Nb3 Ne4 20.Qxd5 Nxg3 21.fxg3 Nxe5 22.Nfd4 Qd3 23.Nf5 Qxd5 24.Ne7+ Kh8 25.Nxd5 Rfd8∓ ½ (33) Kindermann,S (2530)-Marin,M (2485) Novi Sad 1990

13...Rb8 14.c3 bxc3 15.bxc3 Bg4 16.Bc2 g5 17.Bg3 Be7 18.Re1 0-0 19.Nb3 Ne4 20.Qd3 Bf5 21.Nbd4 Nxg3 22.Nxf5 Qxf5 23.Qd1± ½ (41) King,D (2500)-Kaidanov,G (2535) Budapest 1989 23...Ne4 24.Qxd5 Nxc3 25.Qd2 Qe6 26.Qd3 Qg6 27.Qxc3 Bb4 28.Qc4 Qe6 ½-½ King,D (2500)-Kaidanov,G (2535)/Budapest 1989/ (41)

[6] **14...Qxe7** 15.c3 0-0
[15...bxc3!? 16.bxc3 Nxb3 17.Nxb3 0-0 18.Re1 Rab8= 19.Nfd4 Na7 20.Ne2 c5 Ftacnik,L: '0-1 Ljubojevic,L (2590)-Hjartarson,J (2535)/Amsterdam 1991/ (42)' 21.Nf4 Rfd8∓ 0-1 (42) Ljubojevic,L (2590)-Hjartarson,J (2535) Amsterdam 1991]
16.Bc2
[16.Ba4 Nxa4 17.Qxa4 Bd7 18.Rfe1 Nd4 19.Qd1 Nb5 20.Qc2 c5 21.c4 dxc4 22.Qxc4 Be6 23.Qf4 Rad8∓ ½ (45) Lima,D (2541)-Mikhalevski,V (2520) Sao Paulo 2002 24.Ne4= ½-½ Lima,D (2541)-Mikhalevski,V (2520)/Sao Paulo 2002/ (45)]
16...Bg4 17.h3 Bxf3
[17...Bh5 18.Qe1 bxc3 19.bxc3 f6 20.Nd4 Be8 21.N2b3 Nxd4 22.cxd4 Ne6 23.Qe3 Bb5 Ftacnik,L: '=' Ftacnik,L: '1-0 Kindermann,S (2525)-Tukmakov,V (2590)/Biel 1988/CBM 009 (39)' 24.Rfe1± 1-0 (39) Kindermann,S (2525)-Tukmakov,V (2590) Biel 1988]
18.Nxf3 bxc3 19.bxc3 Nxe5 20.Qxd5 Nxf3+ 21.Qxf3 Rfe8= Kindermann,S Schussler
15.Nd4 0-0 16.c3 bxc3 17.bxc3 Bg4!
[17...Rab8 18.Bc2 Bg4 19.Qe1 Rb2 20.Qe3 Bf5 21.Bxf5 Nxf5 22.Nxf5 Qxf5 23.Qxc5 Rxd2 24.Qxc7 Rc8 25.Qd6 Rxc3 26.Qxa6 Rcc2 27.Qb6 d4= ½-½ Ljubojevic,L (2590)-Jussupow,A (2605)/Linares 1991/ (37) Ftacnik,L: '½-½ Ljubojevic,L (2590)-Jussupow,A (2605)/Linares 1991/ (37)']
18.f3
[18.Qb1?! Rab8∓ Kristiansen,J-Yusupov,A / Esbjerg 1980]
18...Bf5 19.Bc2= Yusupov,A Ruy Lopez Open Variation-8.de5 Be6 9.a4 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[7] **9...Na5** 10.Nd4 g6 11.c3 Nxb3 12.axb3 Nc5 13.b4 Nd7 14.f4 c5 15.f5 cxd4 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.Qf2 Qe7 18.cxd4 Nb6 19.Bg5 Qd7 20.Nd2 Bxb4 21.Qh4 Rf8 22.Nf3± 1-0 (38) Tazbir,M (2555)-Simacek,P (2485) Czech Republic 2014

[8] **10.Nc3** Nxb3 11.cxb3 Be7 12.Be3!?
[12.Rd1 would transpose to known theory. Fabiano himself had a first-hand experience with this position 0-0 13.Be3 Qd7 14.h3 *(14.Rac1 Rad8 15.Bg5 Bxg5 16.Nxg5 h6 17.Nf3 Rfe8 18.h3 d4 19.Ne4 Bd5=* A.Sokolov-Hellers, Stockholm 1989, and Black looks fine.*)* 14...Rad8 *(14...Rfd8 15.Rd2 Na5 16.Rad1 c5 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5 Qxd5 19.Rxd5 Rxd5 20.e6 f6 21.Bf4±* 1-0 (52) Sjugirov,S (2712)-Liyanage,R (2331) Chess.com INT 2022*)* 15.Rd2 f6 16.Rad1 *(*In case of *16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Re1 Rfe8* the position is balanced.*)* 16...Nxe5 *(16...fxe5* is similar to the text move, *17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5 Qxd5 19.Rxd5 Rxd5* should be an equal position.*)* 17.Nxe5 fxe5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Rxd5 Qxd5 20.Rxd5 Rxd5 21.Qc2! The best way to activate the queen. c5 22.g3 *(22.Qe4* was the alternative choice: *Rfd8 23.Qf5 R8d6 .)* 22...Kh8?! A dubious move, Black starts a bad plan. *(22...g6!* was correct followed by ...

♖fd8. *23.Qe4 Rfd8 24.h4 Bf6=* and Black holds his position.*)* 23.h4± 1-0 (46) Caruana,F (2807)-Giri,A (2769) Saint Louis 2016]
12...0-0 13.h3 Qd7 14.Rad1 An attempt to improve on his own play. 14...f6! 15.exf6 Rxf6 16.Ng5 Rd8 17.Rfe1 This is the idea. The other rook comes in handy on the e-file. 17...Rf5
[Better was 17...Rg6 18.Nxe6 Qxe6 19.Kh1 Qf5 20.f4 h5!]
18.Nce4? It's amazing what a bad form can do even to a great player. Barely a couple of moves out of book, in a position he had played and studied before, Caruana goes astray.
[The logical 18.g4 would practically force Black to sac the exchange: Re5 *(18...Rff8 19.Bc1* will cost Black his d5-pawn.*)* 19.f4 Bxg5 20.fxe5 Be7 Granted Black isn't dead yet, but how can White reject this position?]
18...h6 19.Nxe6 Qxe6 20.Ng3 Re5 Already White is the one under pressure. 21.Qd3
[21.f4 Rxe3 22.Qxe3 Qxe3+ 23.Rxe3 Bc5 is unneerving, but 24.Nf5! Rf8 25.Rc1 seem to hold.]
21...Bc5 22.Rc1 Bb6∓ 0-1 (32) Caruana,F (2808)-Mamedyarov,S (2800) Paris 2017

[9] **10...Qd7** 11.Be3 Be7 12.c4 bxc4 13.Bxc4 Na5 14.Bxd5 Bxd5 15.Nc3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Qc6 17.Nd5 Ne6 18.Rac1 Qb7 19.Rxc7 Nxc7 20.Nxc7+ Qxc7 21.Qxa8+ Bd8 22.Bg5+- 1-0 (27) Santos Latasa,J (2567)-Jaracz,P (2467) Ortisei 2018

[10] **11...Qc8** 12.c4 dxc4 13.bxc4 Bxc4 14.Qe4 Qe6 15.Nd4 Qd5 16.Qxd5 Bxd5 17.Nxb5 0-0-0 18.Rxa6 Kb7 19.Ra1 Be7 20.Bf4 g5 21.Be3 Bc4 22.N1a3= 1-0 (45) Giri,A (2752)-Smeets,J (2608) Amstelveen 2017
11...Qd7 12.Nc3 b4 13.Na4 Be7 14.Bg5 0-0 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Qe3 Rfb8 17.Qc5 Qe8 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.Qxd4 Rb5 20.Rac1 Rab8 21.Nc5 Qe7 22.Nxe6 fxe6= ½ (36) Santos Latasa,J (2576)-Kantans,T (2529) Maia 2018

[11] **12.Be3** 0-0 13.c4 b4 14.h3
[14.cxd5 Bxd5 15.Rxa6 Rxa6 16.Qxa6 Qd7 17.Qb5 Rd8 18.Bc5 Bxc5 19.Qxc5 h6 20.h3 Qe6 21.Qe3 Qf5 22.Nd4 Qg6-+ 0-1 (54) Shevchenko,K (2447)-Khalifman,A (2617) St Petersburg 2016]
14...Qd7 15.Nbd2 Qc8 16.c5 Rd8 17.Nd4 Nxe5 18.f4 Ng6 19.c6 Re8 20.Qf2 Bf6 21.N2f3 Ne7∓ 1-0 (37) Andreikin,D (2726)-Sanal,V (2581) Chess.com INT 2020
12.Nc3 Nb4
[12...0-0 13.h3 *(13.Bf4 b4 14.Na4 Qd7 15.Bg5 Rfe8 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Qe3 Rad8 18.Qc5 Bg4 19.Qxc6 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Qg5+ 21.Kh1 Qf4 22.Rd3 Rxe5 23.Rg1 h5 24.Qxc7 Rde8 25.Nb6 Qf5 26.Qd7 R8e6 27.Nxd5 Kh7 28.Nc7* 1-0 (28) Tomczak,J (2600)-Leniart,A (2489) Suwalki 2018*)* 13...h6 *(13...Nb4 14.Bf4 c5 15.Na2 Nxa2 16.Rxa2 h6 17.Raa1 Qb6 18.b4 cxb4 19.Nd4 Bc5 20.Be3 Rfc8 21.Rd3 Qc7 22.Qh5 Bxd4 23.Rxd4 Qxc2-+* 0-1 (44) Halkias,S

(2585)-Lalith,B (2587) Doha 2016*)* 14.Be3 Qd7 15.Ne4 Rfd8 16.Bc5 dxe4 17.Rxd7 Bxd7 18.Bxe7 exf3 19.Qxf3 Nxe7 20.Qb7 Be6 21.Qxc7 Nd5 22.Qa5 Rdc8∓ 1-0 (40) Fedorchuk,S (2648)-Meskovs,N (2538) Katowice 2017]
13.Nd4 0-0 14.Ne4 c5 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Ng3 Qe8 17.c3 Nc6 18.Qg4 Qg6 19.Qxg6 hxg6 20.f4 a5 21.Be3 Rfb8∓ 0-1 (58) Golubev,M (2461)-Lysyj,I (2603) Chess.com INT 2021

12.c3 0-0 13.h3
[13.Nd4 Qd7 14.Na3 Nxd4 15.cxd4 c5 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Be3 d4 18.Nc2 Bxb3 19.Bxd4 Qe7 20.Rd2 Rac8 21.Bxc5 Rxc5 22.Re1 Rfc8 23.Ne3 Qxe5∓ ½ (41) Akash,G (2424)-Popov,I (2611) Ahmedabad 2018]
13...Qd7 14.Bf4 f6 15.Bg3 fxe5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Qxe5 Bd6 18.Qe3 Rae8 19.Bxd6 Qxd6 20.Qg3 Qxg3 21.fxg3 Bc8 22.Nd2 Re2 23.Nf3 Bxh3 24.Rd2 Rxd2 25.Nxd2 Bc8∓ 0-1 (72) Kamsky,G (2655)-Nazari,A (2401) Chess.com INT 2022

12.Nbd2 0-0 13.Nf1 Qd7 14.h3
[14.Bg5 Rfd8 15.h3 Bxg5 16.Nxg5 h6 17.Nf3 Qe7 18.c3 d4 19.Nxd4 Nxd4 20.Rxd4 Rxd4 21.cxd4 Qb4 22.Qd2 Qxd2 23.Nxd2 Rd8 24.Nf3 Bxb3 25.Rxa6 Bd1 26.Ra3 Bxf3 27.Rxf3 ½-½ (27) Kobalia,M (2599)-Hakobyan,A (2497) Moscow 2018]
14...Rfd8 15.Ng3 h6 16.c3 Qe8 17.Be3 Bf8 18.b4 a5 19.bxa5 Nxa5 20.Nd4 Nc4 21.f4 c5 22.Nf3 Rxa1 23.Rxa1 Nxe3 24.Qxe3 d4 25.cxd4 cxd4∓ 0-1 (67) Lou,Y (2472)-Sargsyan,S (2596) Lichess.org INT 2020

[12] **12...0-0** 13.Nc3
[13.cxd5 Bxd5 14.Bf4 *(14.Nc3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 Qc8 16.Nd5 Bd8 17.Qe4 Ne7 18.Bf4 c6 19.Nxe7+ Bxe7 20.Rac1 Qe6 21.Rxc6 Qxb3 22.Rd7+-* ½ (33) Bellahcene,B (2501)-Anton Guijarro,D (2639) Batumi 2018 *)* 14...Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nd4 16.Qe4 c5 17.Nc3 f5 18.Qb7 Bg5 19.e6 Qe7 20.Qxe7 Bxe7 21.Nd5 Rfe8 22.Rxd4 cxd4 23.Nc7= 0-1 (59) Kollars,D (2505)-Sutovsky,E (2673) Caleta 2018]
13...Nb4 14.cxd5 Nxd5 15.Ne4 Qe8 16.Bg5 f6 17.Nd4 fxg5 18.Nxe6 Nf4 19.Nxf4 Rxf4 20.Rac1 Qg6 21.Ng3 Raf8 22.Qe3 c5∓ ½ (29) Subelj,J (2498)-Yakubboev,N (2620) Chennai 2022

[13] **13.cxd5** Bxd5 14.Nbd2
[14.Bf4 0-0 15.Nbd2 Qc8 16.Rac1 Rd8 17.Nc4 Qg4 18.Be3 h6 19.Rd2 a5 20.Rcd1 Bxc4 21.Rxd8+ Bxd8 22.Qxc4 Qxc4 23.bxc4 a4-+ 0-1 (34) Ali Marandi,C (2543)-Mamedyarov,S (2764) Playchess.com INT 2020]
[14.Rxa6 Rxa6 15.Qxa6 0-0 16.Qb5 Bc4 17.Rxd8 Bxb5 18.Rxf8+ Kxf8 19.Be3 Ke8 20.Nbd2 Kd7 21.Ne4 Ke6 22.Neg5+ Kd5 23.Nxf7 h6∓ ½ (54) Jones,G (2666)-Anton Guijarro,D (2652) Linares 2018]
[14.Qd3 Be6 *(14...Be4)* 15.Qc2 Bd5 *(15...Bd7 16.Nbd2 Qc8 17.Ne4 Nd8 18.Bg5 Bxg5 19.Nfxg5 h6 20.e6 Bxe6 21.Rxd8+ Kxd8 22.Rd1+ Ke8 23.Qc6+*

Ke7 24.Qc5+ Ke8 25.Qc6+ Ke7 26.Nxe6 Qxe6 27.Qc5+= 0-1 (56) Erenburg,S (2576)-Baryshpolets,A (2589) Saint Louis 2019*)* 16.Nbd2 Qd7 17.Nc4 Qe6 18.Bf4 0-0 19.Rac1 Rfd8 20.Bg3 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Nd4 22.Qd3 Bg5∓ 1-0 (53) Bellahcene,B (2512)-Sargsyan,S (2628) Abu Dhabi 2021]

14...0-0 15.Ne4 Qd7 16.Bg5 Rfd8 17.Rd3

[17.Rac1 Qe6 18.Bxe7 Nxe7 19.Nc5 Qg4 20.h3 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Qxf3 22.gxf3 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Ng6= ½ (42) Kovalev,V (2650)-Meskovs,N (2515) Minsk 2018]

17...Bxg5 18.Nexg5 h6 19.Rad1 hxg5 20.Rxd5 Qxd5 21.Rxd5 Rxd5 22.e6 ½-½ (22) Kamsky,G (2657)-Lysyj,I (2603) Chess.com INT 2021

13.Bg5 Bxg5 14.cxd5 Bxd5 15.Nxg5 Qxg5 16.Rxd5 0-0 17.Nd2 Rad8 18.Nf3 Qf5 19.Rxd8

[19.Qc4 Rxd5 20.Qxd5 Qc2 21.e6 fxe6 22.Qxe6+ Kh8= ½ (37) Zhu,J (2478)-Muzychuk,M (2539) Xian 2021]

19...Rxd8 20.h3 a5 21.Rc1 Nd4 22.Nxd4 Rxd4 23.Rxc7 h6= ½ (79) Perez Candelario,M (2611)-Anton Guijarro,D (2652) Linares 2018

13.Bf4 0-0 14.Nbd2 Qc8 15.Bg5 Bxg5 16.Nxg5 Rd8

[16...h6 17.cxd5 Bxd5 18.Qd3 hxg5 19.Qxd5 Nd8 20.Nf3 Ne6 21.Qe4 Qe8 22.Qxb4± ½ (67) Yemelin,V (2546)-Bobras,P (2483) Czech Republic 2019]

17.cxd5 Bxd5 18.e6 f6 19.e7 Nxe7 20.Qxe7 fxg5 21.Qxg5 Qe6 22.Nc4 Rd7 23.Re1 Qf6 24.Qxf6 gxf6 25.Rec1= 0-1 (48) Tomczak,J (2583)-Meskovs,N (2524) Germany 2017

[14] **13...Qd7** 14.Nf1 0-0 15.Bg5

[15.h3 17 Rfd8 9:46 16.cxd5 20 Bxd5 11 17.Ng5 8 Qe8 44:15 18.Rxd5 1:13 Rxd5 2:17 19.Qe4 8 Bxg5 6 20.Qxd5 6 Rd8 1:36 21.Qe4 8 Rd4 4:34 22.Qe2 1:24 Bxc1 4:14 23.Rxc1 10 Qxe5 11 24.Qxa6 11:05 Nd8= 8 1-0 (42) Heimann,A (2627)-Santos Ruiz,M (2549) Brest 2019]

15...Rfd8 16.cxd5 Bxd5 17.Ne3 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Qe8 19.Bxe7 Nxe5 20.Qe4 Qxe7 21.Nd5 Qd6 22.Qxb4 Qxb4 23.Nxb4 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Kf8 25.Rd5 ½-½ (25) Palac,M (2517)-Brkic,A (2621) Zagreb 2021

[15] **14.cxd5** Bxd5 15.Nc4 Qe6 16.Qd3 Rd8 17.Bf4 0-0 18.Qe2 a5 19.Rdc1 Qg4 20.Bg3 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Qxf3 22.gxf3 Nd4∓ 0-1 (33) Jovanovic,Z (2518)-Sanal,V (2490) Skopje 2018

[16] **15.Qe4**

[15.bxc4 0-0 16.Qe4 Nd8 17.Ng3 Re8 18.Ng5 Bxg5 19.Bxg5 h6 20.Be3 a5 21.f4 Qa6 22.b3 Bc8 23.f5 Nc6 24.e6 Bxe6 25.fxe6 Rxe6 26.Qf4 Rae8 27.Bd4 1-0 (27) Lu,S (2617)-Bellahcene,B (2476) Cappelle la Grande 2016]

15...Qb7 16.Bg5 Na5 17.Qh4 Bxg5 18.Qxg5 Nxb3 19.Qxg7 Rf8 20.Ng5 Bd5 21.Nxh7 0-0-0 22.Nxf8 Nxa1 23.Rxa1+- 1-0 (37) Volokitin,A (2687)-Huschenbeth,N (2611) Germany 2022

[17] **12.Be3** 0-0 13.Nc3 f6
[13...Qd7 14.Rd2 b4 *(14...Nd8 15.Rc1 c6 16.Ne4 Bg4 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Re8 19.Qg3 Kh8 20.Bc5 Nb7 21.Bd4 Bf8 22.Ng5 Kg8 23.Qd3 g6* 0-1 (57) Perez Ponsa,F (2585)-Ding,L (2753) Baku 2016 *24.f4±)* 15.Na4 Bg4 16.Rad1 Rad8 17.h3 Bh5 18.Rxd5 Qxd5 19.Rxd5 Rxd5 20.g4 Bg6 21.Qc4 Rd1+ 22.Kg2 Nd8 23.Qxc7+- 1-0 (47) Tari,A (2633)-Anton Guijarro,D (2681) chess24.com INT 2020]
[13...Na5 14.Qd3 c6 15.h3 Rc8 16.Rac1 Qd7 17.Bg5 Nb7 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Qe3 Rfd8 20.Qb6 c5 21.Qxa6 b4 22.Nb5 Ra8 23.Qb6± 1-0 (38) Kamsky,G (2657)-Sargsyan,A (2380) Chess.com INT 2022]
14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Bg5 Qe7 16.Re1 Rae8 17.Qd2 Bxc3 18.Qxc3 Qd6 19.Rac1 Bd7 20.Rxe8 Bxe8 21.Nd4 Nxd4 22.Qxd4 Bd7 23.Bd2 c6 24.f3± ½ (42) Kasimdzhanov,R (2661)-Mamedyarov,S (2764) ICC INT 2020

[18] **13.h3** Re8 14.Be3 f6 15.Qd2 fxe5 16.Nxd5 Bxd5 17.Qxd5+ Qxd5 18.Rxd5 e4 19.Nd4 Nb4 20.Rd7 Bf6 21.Rxc7 Nd3 22.a4 b4 23.Rb1± 1-0 (60) Navara,D (2720)-Erdos,V (2619) Slovakia 2018

[19] **13...Na5** 14.Qd2 c6 15.h3 Nb7 16.Rac1 Rc8 17.a3 a5 18.Nd4 b4 19.axb4 axb4 20.Na4 c5 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Bg3 Na5∓ 1-0 (59) Sjugirov,S (2675)-Sargsyan, A (2405) Chess.com INT 2020

[20] **14...Rad8** 15.Rad1 Qc8 16.Qe3 Qb7 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5 Qc8 19.Bg5 Rxd5 20.Rxd5 Nb4 21.Rd1 Bxg5 22.Qxg5 Nxa2 23.Qe7± 1-0 (61) Jarmula,L (2477)-Muzychuk,M (2560) Germany 2019
15.Rad1 c6 16.h3 Bf5 17.Nd4 Bg6 18.Qg4 Ne6 19.Be3 Rad8 20.Nf5 Bxf5 21.Qxf5 f6 22.exf6 Bxf6 23.Qg4 Qf7∓ 0-1 (32) Navara,D (2697)-Mamedyarov,S (2767) Baku 2021 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-8.de5 Be6 9.Qe2 Nc5 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[21] **10.Nbd2** Nc5 11.Rd1 0-0 12.c3 f6 13.exf6
[13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Nxb3 15.Nxb3 fxe5 16.Qxe5 Qd7 17.Re1 Rf6 18.Bg5 Bd6 19.Bxf6 Bxe5 20.Bxe5 Bf5 21.Rac1 c6 22.Nc5± 1-0 (40) Indjic,A (2618)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020]
13...Bxf6 14.Nf1 Re8 15.Be3 Nxb3 16.axb3 d4 17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Bxb3 19.Rdc1 Bd5 20.Qc2 c6 21.Ng3 Qd7 22.h3 Be7∓ 0-1 (66) Kovalev,V (2623)-Sevian,S (2684) Chess.com INT 2022
10.c3 Nc5 11.Nbd2 0-0 12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 Nxb3 14.Nxb3 c5 15.Nxc5 Bxc5 16.dxc5 d4 17.Qe4 Rc8 18.Bd2 Re8 19.Rfc1 Qd5 20.Qxd5 Bxd5 21.Bf4 a5= ½ (29) Yu,Y (2743)-Vidit,S (2687) Chengdu 2017

[22] Of course, not Natürlich nicht **10...Nc5?** with a well-known line mit einer bekannten Variante 11.Bxd5

[11.c4 d4 12.cxb5 d3 13.Qf1 Nxb3 14.axb3 axb5 15.Rxa8 Qxa8 16.Qxd3 0-0 17.Qxb5 Rb8 18.Qe2 Bxb3 19.Re1 h6 20.Nc3 Be6 21.h3 Bb4= 1-0 (67) Kovalev,V (2648)-Petrosyan,M (2560) Sharjah 2018]

11...Bxd5 12.Nc3 Bc4 13.Rxd8+ Rxd8 14.Qe3

[14.Qe1 Nb4 15.Bg5 Bxg5 16.e6 Nxc2 17.exf7+ Kf8 18.Qe5 Be7 19.Rb1 b4 20.Ne4 Nxe4 21.Qxe4 Bd3 22.Qc6 Nd4 23.Nxd4 Bxb1∓ 0-1 (31) Giri,A (2782)-Mamedyarov,S (2801) Chess.com INT 2018]

14...b4 15.b3 Be6 16.Ne4 Rd1+ 17.Ne1 Nd4 18.Bb2+- Nxc2 19.Qe2 Rxa1 20.Bxa1 Nxa1 21.Nxc5 Bxc5 22.Nd3 Bb6 23.Nxb4 0-0 24.Nc6 f6 25.h4

[25.Ne7+ Kh8 26.Qh5 Bf7 27.Qf5 fxe5= 0-1 (41) Shagalovich,A (2486)-Ravinsky,G (2521) Voroshilovgrad 1955]

25...fxe5 26.Qxe5 Rf6 27.Nd8 Bf7 28.Nxf7 Kxf7 29.Qxa1 Rxf2 30.Kh2± ½ (76) Timman,J (2640)-Jussupow,A (2600) Montpellier 1985

10...Na5 A rare, but playable continuation. Black wants to prevent the advance c2-c4. 11.Nbd2

[11.c3 And we're out of book. Morozevich will always make sure that will happen early; even if he plays one of the main lines of chess. Nxb3 12.axb3 0-0 13.Nd4 Qe8 14.f3 Nc5 15.b4 Nb7 16.Be3 Bd7 17.Na3 c6 18.Nac2 White has achieved a slight edge. He has a nice central control, better pawn structure and his pieces are well coordinated for the most part. Black would like to open the position for his bishops but it does not seem easy. a5 19.f4 Qc8 20.h3 Re8 21.Bf2 Bf8 22.Qf3

A) 22...axb4 23.Rxa8 Qxa8 24.cxb4 *(24.Nxb4?! Nc5∓)* 24...Qc8 is slightly unpleasant but perfectly playable. Black will continue ♘d8-e6 maybe attempting a c5 at some point.;

B) 22...Ra6 It's possible that this inaccurate move is the start of Black's problems. In essence, Black does not have enough resources to occupy the a-file, which means that his rook will be stuck on a6, discoordinated with the other one on e8. This will be important later as the rook is unable to transfer in time to the kingside. 23.Ne3 Qa8 24.Ndc2 Qd8 *(24...axb4 25.Rxa6 Qxa6 26.Ra1±* is the reason why Black can't favorably open the a-file. Since Black can't really ever do this his battery there seems pointless.*)* 25.bxa5± 1-0 (56) Morozevich,A (2769)-Caruana,F (2770) Moscow 2012]

11...Nxd2

[11...Nc5

A) 12.Nd4 0-0 13.c3 Ncxb3 14.N2xb3 Nc4 *(14...Nxb3 15.axb3 c5 16.Nc6 Qc7 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7 18.Rd3 Rfe8 19.Bf4 Qh4 20.Qd2 a5 21.Re1 b4=* 1-0 (125) Visser,Y (2480)-Smeets,J (2535) Hilversum 2006*)* 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.Nd4 Bc5 17.b3 Nb6 18.Qg4 Qd7 19.Qxe6+ Qxe6 20.Nxe6 Bxf2+ 21.Kf1 Bd4+ 22.Nxf8 Rxf8+ 23.Ke2 Bxc3 24.Rb1± 0-1 (52) Babaev,R (2482)-Sokolov,I (2690) Baku 2008;

B) 12.c3 Ncxb3 13.Nxb3 c5 14.Nxa5 Qxa5 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bxe7 Kxe7 17.Ne1 Rac8 18.Nd3 Qa4 19.b4 cxb4 20.cxb4 Rc3 21.Qd2 Qc2 22.Qxc2

Rxc2 23.a4 bxa4 24.Rxa4= 1-0 (54) Ali Marandi,C (2497)-Hess,R (2571) Saint Louis 2017]

12.Bxd2 Nxb3 13.axb3 0-0

[13...c5? 14.Rxa6! 1-0 Gdanski,J-Grabarczyk,B/Sopot 1997/CBM 59 (32)]

14.b4

[14.Nd4 'N?!' After this move white is already fighting for the equality. The only chance to fight for a minimal advantage is 14.b4, trying to fix the opponent's pawnstructure on the queenside. c5 15.Nc6 *(15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.c4 Qe8* and black is at least not worse.*)* 15...Qc7 16.Nxe7+ Qxe7 17.b4 '!' Correctly simplifying the position and getting control over the dark squares. cxb4 18.Qe1 a5 19.Rxa5 The point of 17.b4. Rxa5 20.Bxb4 Qc7 21.Bxa5 Qxc2 22.Qd2 Rc8 23.Qxc2 Rxc2 24.Bc3= 0-1 (39) Goloshchapov,A (2566)-Mamedyarov,S (2660) Izmir 2004]

14...Bg4

[14...c5 15.bxc5 Bxc5 16.b4 Be7 17.Nd4 Qd7 18.Ra3 Rfc8 19.Rg3 Bh4 20.Rd3 Rc4 21.c3± ½-½ Lauridsen,J-Yahya,M/Abu Dhabi 2004/ (44)]

[14...Qd7 15.Nd4 Rfc8 16.Ra3 c5 17.Nxe6 Qxe6 18.bxc5 Bxc5 19.Rd3 a5= ½-½ Palermo,V-Piazzini,L/Buenos Aires 1959/MCD (36)]

15.h3 Bh5 16.g4

[16.Bc3 Qd7 17.g4 Bg6 18.Nd4 Bh4 19.f4 Be4 20.Nb3 Qc6 21.Nc5 Be7 22.Nxe4 dxe4 23.Rd4± 1-0 Lazic,D-Ignjatovic,P/Svetozarevo 1990/EXT 97 (51)]

16...Bg6 17.Nd4 Qd7 18.c3 c5 19.bxc5 Bxc5 20.Be3 f6 21.e6 Qd6 22.Qd2 Bxd4 23.Qxd4 Rfd8= ½ (57) Sattarov,B (2464)-Abdusattorov,N (2646) Tashkent 2021

[23] **11.c3** Qd7

[11...Re8 12.Nbd2 Nc5 13.Bc2 Bg4 14.Nb3 g6 15.Bf4 Ne6 16.Bg3 Bh4 17.Qe3 Bxg3 18.hxg3 Nf8 19.Nbd4 Nxe5 20.Nxe5 Bxd1 21.Rxd1 Qd6 22.f4 f6 1-0 (56) Caruana,F (2822)-Bruzon Batista,L (2640) Chess.com INT 2020 23.Bb3 fxe5 24.Nxb5 axb5 25.Rxd5 Qf6 26.Rxe5+ Ne6 27.Bxe6+±]

[11...Nc5 12.Bc2 Bg4

A) 13.Nbd2 Qd7 14.Nf1 Rad8 15.Ne3 Nxe5 16.Rxd5 Bxf3 *(16...Qe6 17.Rxd8 Rxd8 18.Nxg4 Nxf3+ 19.Kf1 Qxg4 20.Qxf3 Qxf3 21.gxf3 g6 22.Be3 Ne6* ½-½ (22) Cherniaev,A (2504)-Lalic,B (2547) Catalan Bay 2003 *)* 17.gxf3 Qe6 18.Bf5 Qf6 19.Ng4 Nxg4 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.fxg4 Shamkovich-McLaughlin/Chicago/1988/;

B) 13.b4 Na4

B1) 14.Bf4 Qd7 15.Qd3 g6 16.Qxd5 Qxd5 17.Rxd5 Nb6 18.Rd1 Rad8 19.Re1?! *(19.Nbd2 Nd5; 19.Rxd8 Rxd8 20.e6 Nd5 21.exf7+ Kxf7 22.Bb3 Be6 23.Ng5+ Bxg5 24.Bxg5 Rd7∞)* 19...Nd5 20.Bh6 Rfe8 21.a4! *(21.Nbd2 Nxc3 22.a3∞)* 21...Bxf3 22.gxf3 Bf8 23.Bxf8 *(23.Bg5 f6)* 23...Kxf8∓ ½ (53) Short,N (2655)-Timman,J (2635) El Escorial 1993;

B2) 14.Bxa4 bxa4;

B3) 14.Qd3 g6 15.Qxd5 Qxd5 16.Rxd5 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Nb6∓;
B4) 14.c4 Nxb4 *(14...Nb6 15.cxd5 Nxb4 16.Nc3 Nxc2 17.Qxc2 Bxf3 18.gxf3)* 15.Bxa4 bxa4 16.a3 Nc6 17.cxd5 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Nxe5!;
B5) 14.h3 Bh5 15.Bf4 Qd7 16.c4 Nb6 17.c5 Nc4 18.a3 Bxf3 19.Qd3 g6 20.Qxf3 N6xe5 21.Qxd5 Qxd5 22.Rxd5 Bf6∓ ½ (63) Jones,G (2688)-Saduakassova,D (2481) Douglas 2019]

[11...f5 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Be3 Qd7 14.Nbd2 Nxd2 15.Qxd2 Ne7 16.Bc5 c6 17.Nd4 Bf7 18.a4 Rfe8 19.Re1 Nf5 20.Rxe8+ Rxe8 21.axb5 axb5 22.Ra7 Nxd4 23.cxd4 Qf5= ½ (34) Ivanov,A (2555)-Wedberg,T (2465) New York 1992]

12.Nbd2

[12.Bc2 f5 13.Nbd2 *(13.a4 b4 14.a5 Qc8 15.Bb3 Rd8 16.Be3 Kh8 17.Qc2 Rb8 18.Nbd2 f4 19.Bxf4 Nc5 20.Ng5 Bxg5 21.Bxg5 Bf5 22.Qc1 Nd3 23.Qb1 Nxf2-+* ½ (32) Kostenko,P (2489)-Jumabayev,R (2545) Pavlodar 2012 *)* 13...Rad8 14.Nb3 Bf7 15.Nbd4 Bh5 16.Nxc6 Qxc6 17.Nd4 Bxe2 18.Nxc6 Bxd1 19.Nxe7+ Kf7 20.Bxd1 Kxe7 21.f3 Nc5 22.Bg5+ Ke6 23.Bxd8 Rxd8∓ 0-1 (66) Abdusattorov,N (2598)-Vidit,S (2703) Biel 2019]

[12.Be3 Rfd8 *(12...f5 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.a4 Na5 15.Bc2 Nc4 16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Rxa8 18.Re1 Bg4 19.Bg5 Bf8 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.b3 Nd6 22.Qd3 c6 23.Nd4=* 1-0 (44) Baklan,V (2655)-Seel,C (2481) Germany 2015*)* 13.a4 Rab8 14.axb5 axb5 15.Nbd2 Nc5 16.Bc2 Bf5 17.Bxf5 Qxf5 18.Bxc5 Bxc5 19.Nb3 Bb6 20.Nbd4 Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Qd7 22.Qf3 c6 23.Re1 Ra8 24.h4 Bc7 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 ½-½ (25) Lu,S (2619)-Lalith,B (2529) Chengdu 2017]

12...Nxd2?! Now White gets initiative. Jetzt bekommt Weiß Initiative.

[12...Nc5 13.Bc2 Bf5 14.Nf1 Bxc2 15.Qxc2 Qe6 16.Nd4 Qd7 17.Nf3 Qe6 18.Bf4 Rad8 19.Ne3 Rfe8 20.h3 Na4 21.b3 Nb6 22.Rd2± 1-0 (54) Vachier Lagrave,M (2784)-Anton Guijarro,D (2675) chess24.com INT 2020]

[12...f5!?]

13.Qxd2! The key idea. White wins an important tempo, Die Schlüsselidee. Weiß gewinnt ein wichtiges Tempo,

[13.Bxd2 Na5 14.Bc2 Nc4=]

13...Rad8 14.a4 f6

[14...b4 15.Qd3↑]

[During the game I was wondering what was going on after Während der Partie habe ich mich gefragt, was los war nach 14...d4?! 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.axb5 axb5 17.cxd4 Rxf3? 18.gxf3 Nxd4 but according to Stockfish White is just winning: aber laut Stockfish gewinnt Weiß einfach: 19.Kf1+-]

15.axb5 axb5 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Qe2

[17.Qd3 gave the option gab die Möglichkeit Ne5 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.Bg5 Bf6]

17...Rfe8 18.Bg5 d4

[18...Bxg5 19.Nxg5 Bg4 20.Rxd5+-]

19.Qxb5 Black doesn't have any compensation at all for the pawn. Schwarz hat überhaupt keine Kompensation für den Bauern. 19...Bxg5 20.Bxe6+ Qxe6 21.Nxg5 Qd5 22.Qxd5+ Rxd5 23.Nf3± 1-0 (64) Vitiugov,N (2726)-Tabatabaei,M

(2623) Berlin 2022 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-8.de5 Be6 9.Qe2 Be7 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

24 **12...Qd7** 13.Nc3

[13.Be3 Rfd8 *(13...f6 14.Bd3 Qe8 15.Nbd2 Nxd2 16.Bxd2 fxe5 17.Nxe5 Nd4 18.Qe1 Bd6 19.f4 c5 20.Be3 Qh5 21.b4 Bxe5 22.fxe5 Qxe5 23.bxc5±* ½ (52) Turner,M (2487)-Flear,G (2519) Southend 2000 *)* 14.Bxa6 Nb4 15.Bb5 c6 16.Bd3 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 Bf5 18.Qe2 c5 19.Nbd2 d4 20.Bf4 Qd5 21.Qc4 Qb7**∓** 0-1 Brustkern,J (2286)-Sturua,Z (2602)/Hamburg 1999/ (38)]

13...Nxc3 14.bxc3 f6 15.exf6

[15.Bf4 fxe5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 c6 18.Bb3 a5 19.Re1 Bf6 20.Bxf6 Rxf6 21.Rad1 a4 22.Bc2= ½ (37) Leko,P (2755)-Carlsen,M (2714) Moscow 2007]

15...Bxf6 16.Ng5!

[16.Qxe6+ Qxe6 17.Bxd5 Qxd5 18.Rxd5 Nb4 *(18...Bxc3 19.Rb1 Nb4 20.Rc5 Nxa2=)* 19.Rc5 Nc2 20.Rb1 Rab8 21.Rxb8 Rxb8 22.Nd2 Re8= Larsen,B]

[16.Bg5 Kh8 17.Bxf6 Rxf6 18.Ng5 Bg8 19.Bxd5 Bxd5 20.c4 Re8 *(20...Bxc4 21.Qxc4 Qf5 22.Nf3 Ne5 23.Nxe5 Qxe5 24.Re1 Qb2 25.Qe2 Qxe2 26.Rxe2 Rd8 27.g3 c5 28.Rae1 Kg8 29.Re8+* ½-½ (29) Morovic Fernandez,I (2565)-Milos,G (2515) Buenos Aires 1992*)* 21.Qc2 Rg6 22.cxd5 Rxg5 23.Qxc6 Rxg2+ ½-½ (23) Amin,B (2567)-Mamedyarov,S (2746) Almaty 2022]

16...Bxg5 17.Bxg5 Kh8?!

[17...h6 18.Be3

A) 18...Qd6 19.Bxa6 *(19.Bb3 Ne5)* 19...Ne5 20.Bd3 Bg4 21.f3 Bxf3 *(21...Nxf3+∞)* 22.gxf3 Nxf3+ 23.Kh1 Rae8 24.Bc4 c6 25.Rd3 Ne5 26.Ba6 Nxd3 27.Qxd3 *(27.Bxd3 Qe6! 28.Re1 Qh3 29.Bg6 Rxe3 30.Qxe3 Rf1+-+)* 27...Rf3 28.Bc5 Rxd3 29.Bxd6 Rxc3 30.a4**∞**;

B) 18...Ne5 19.Bb3 Qd6

B1) 20.h3 Rae8 21.Rd4 *(21.c4!? Bxh3! 22.c5 Qg6 23.Bxd5+ Kh8 24.c6 Bxg2 25.Bxg2 Nf3+ 26.Kf1 Nh2+=* Shamkovich*; 21.Qh5 Bf7 22.Qh4 c5∞* Ivkov-Adison,Maribor1967*)* 21...c5 22.Rf4 Nf7 *(22...Rxf4! 23.Bxf4 Bf7± 24.Re1? Nf3+-+)* 23.Qh5 Ng5 24.Rxf8+ Rxf8 25.Bxg5 Qe5 26.Rd1 c4 27.Bc2 Qxg5 28.Qxg5 ½-½ Martens,M-Flear,G/Hyeres op 1992 hxg5 29.Rb1**±**;

B2) 20.f3 Kh8 *(20...c5±)* 21.Bd4 Nd7 22.Qd2 Bg8 23.Bf2 Nf6**±** 0-1 Busch,W-Scherer,H/Mannheim MB 1990 (53);

B3) 20.Rd4 c5 21.Rf4

B3a) 21...Nd7 22.Rxf8+ *(22.Rd1 Qc6 23.Qd2 Nf6 24.Rh4 Ra7∞)* 22...Rxf8 23.Rd1 Qc6 24.Rd2 Re8 25.Qf3 Nf6 26.c4= ½-½ (41) Tsuboi,E-Sorin,A/Sao Paulo op 1991;

B3b) 21...Kh8 22.Rd1 Nd7

B3b1) 23.Qf3 Nf6 *(23...Nb6)* 24.c4!**±** d4 25.Rxf6! gxf6 26.Bxh6+-;

B3b2) 23.Qd2 Nf6 24.Rh4 Ra7 25.f3 Rd7 26.Qf2 Rc8**±** 1-0 Haugli,P-Wedberg,T/Gausdal AC 1987 (45);

B3c) 21...Ng6 22.Rxf8+ Nxf8 23.Rd1 Rd8 ½-½ Vogt,L-Moehring,G/Halle 1974 (43) 24.Bxd5 Bxd5 25.c4 Qe6 26.cxd5 Rxd5 27.Rxd5 Qxd5 28.Qxa6±;
B3d) 21...g5 22.Rxf8+ Rxf8 23.Rd1 *(23.h3 Bxh3! 24.gxh3 Nf3+ 25.Kf1 c4 26.Bc2 Qe6! 27.Kg2 Nh4+=* Tal,M*; 23.f3!? Bf5 24.Rd1!? c4 25.Bxc4 Nxc4 26.Qxc4 Qxh2+ 27.Kxh2 dxc4±* Sydor *)* 23...Ng4 24.g3 Qe5 25.Re1 Nxe3 26.Qxe3 Qxe3 27.Rxe3 ½-½ Brodsky,M-Sorin,A/Groningen op 1994]

[17...Rae8
A) 18.Bb3 Na5 *(18...Nb8)* 19.Qxa6 Nxb3 20.axb3 Rf5 21.Bh4± 1-0 Sanz Alonso,F-Gallego,V/Alicante op2 1989 (30);
B) 18.Qd2 Ne5 *(18...dxc4 19.Qxd7 Bxd7 20.Rxd7 Re2 21.Be3 Rf7 22.Rd5 Ne7 23.Rd8+ Rf8 24.Rd7±)* 19.Bxd5 Bxd5 20.Qxd5+ Qxd5 21.Rxd5 Rf5 22.Rd8! Nf3+ 23.Kh1 Rxd8 24.Bxd8 Nd2 25.f3± Geller,E-Larsen,B/Copenhagen cm-3pl 1966/½-½ (57);
C) 18.Be3 Ne5 19.Bb3 Qd6 20.f3 c5 21.Kh1 c4 22.Bxc4 Nxc4 23.Qxc4 Qxh2+ 24.Kxh2 dxc4 25.Rd6± 1-0 (41) Safarli,E (2644)-Kotsur,P (2552) Nakhchivan 2013;
D) 18.Rd2 Qf7 19.Bxa6 Qg6 20.h4 h6 21.Bd3 Bf5 22.Be3 Ne5 23.h5 Bxd3 24.hxg6 Bxe2 25.Rxe2 Nxg6 26.a4± ½-½ Winterstein,W-Nielsen,T/Copenhagen PC 1991 (41)]

18.Qd2
[⩲18.Bxa6 Bg4 *(18...d4 19.Bb7 Ra5 20.Qd2±)* 19.f3 Rae8 20.Qd2±]
18...Rf5
[⩲18...Qf7]
19.Bd3 Rf7 20.Re1 Qd6
[20...d4 21.Rad1±]
21.Bh4 Bf5 22.Bg3 Qf6 23.Rad1 Bxd3 24.Qxd3 Ne7 25.Re5 c6 26.Rde1 Ng6 27.Re6 Re7 28.Rxe7 Nxe7 29.Qd4!± 1-0 Gdanski,J (2485)-Krasenkow,M (2615)/Warsaw 1997/ (43)

[25] **14.fxe3** During the game I was trying to figure out what might have happen if white goes for the other recapture. 14...f6
[14...Ng5 15.Bxd5 Bxd5 *(15...Nh3+ 16.gxh3 Bxd5 17.Qf1)* 16.Nxg5 Qxg5 17.Rxd5 Nxe5 18.Nc3 c6 '=']
[14...Na5 15.Bd3 Ng5 16.Nbd2 c5 17.b3 Qe7 '=']
15.exf6 Qxf6 16.Bxd5 Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Rab8 18.Rd1 Qxb2 19.Qc4+ Kh8 20.Qxc6 Qf2+ 21.Kh1 Rxf3 22.Nd2 Ng3+ 23.hxg3 Rf5 24.Nf3 Rh5+ 25.Nh4 Qxg3 26.Rd4 Rxh4+ 27.Rxh4 Qxh4+ 28.Kg1∓ '∓'

[26] **14...Nb4** 15.Bb3 c5 16.Nc3 Qb6 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Bxd5 Nxd5 19.Qxe4 Nc7 20.Ng5 Qh6 21.h4 Ne6 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.g3± 1-0 (82) Xiong,J (2667)-Meskovs,N (2490) Chess.com INT 2017

14...Ne7 15.Nc3

[15.Bd3 Qb8 16.Nbd2 Nxd2 17.Rxd2 Qb6 18.Qxb6 cxb6 19.Nd4 Rfc8 20.f4 g6 21.Kf2 Nc6 22.Nxc6 Rxc6 1-0 (48) Smeets,J (2578)-De Jong,J (2474) Hilversum 2008 23.h3±]

[15.Nbd2 Nxf2 16.Qxf2 dxc4 17.Nxc4 Qb8 18.Rac1 h6 19.b3 a5 20.Qc5 Qb4 21.Nb2 Rfd8 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 23.Qxb4 axb4 24.Rxc7 Nd5= ½ (60) Sion Castro,M (2435)-Korneev,O (2565) Pamplona 1997]

15...Nxc3 16.bxc3 Qc8 17.Bd3 c5 ½-½ (17) Golod,V (2589)-Roiz,M (2630) Port Erin 2007

15.Bb3

[15.b3? Nxf2 16.Rxd5! Ng4 17.Qc5 Bxd5 18.Bxd5 Qb6 19.Qxb6 cxb6 20.e6! *(20.Bxc6 Rac8 21.h3 Rxc6 22.hxg4 Rc1+ 23.Kf2 Rd8 24.Ke2 Rdd1 25.Nfd2 Kf8)* 20...Rad8 21.Nc3 Ne7 22.exf7+ Kh8 23.Be6= 0-1 Hartmann,G-Oechslein, R/Germany 1976/EXT 99/[RR] (29)]

15...Qb6

[15...Ne7 16.Nbd2 *(16.Nc3 Nxc3 17.Qxc3 a5 18.Qc5 a4 19.Qxe7 axb3 20.a4 Bg4 21.Rxd5 Bxf3 22.gxf3 Ra6 23.Rad1 Re6 24.Qh4±* 1-0 (37) Lu,S (2615)-Torre,E (2468) Olongapo City 2015*)* 16...Qb6 17.Qxb6 cxb6 18.Nd4 Nc5 19.Bc2 Bd7 20.Nf1 Nc6 21.Nxc6 Bxc6 22.Ne3 Rad8 23.Nf5± 1-0 (37) Pijpers, A (2474)-Stefansson,H (2562) Leiden 2019]

[15...Qa7 16.Qxa7 Nxa7 17.Nbd2 Nc5 18.Rac1 Nd3 19.Rxc7 Nxb2 20.Re1 Nb5 21.Rc2 Nd3 22.Ra1 Nb4 23.Rc5 Nd3 24.Rc6 Rfc8 25.Rb6 Rcb8 26.Rxb8+ ½-½ (26) Ter Sahakyan,S (2613)-Sarkar,J (2434) Abu Dhabi 2016]

[15...Na5

A) 16.Nd4

A1) 16...Qb6 17.Na3 *(17.Nd2 Nxd2 18.Rxd2 c5 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Rc1 Rfc8 21.Rdc2 Nxb3 22.Qxb3 Qxb3 23.axb3=* 0-1 (60) Tristan,L (2477)-Nihal,S (2572) Chess.com INT 2018 *)*

A1a) 17...Nxb3 18.Qxb3 Rab8 *(18...Qa7 19.Qe3 Bd7 20.Rac1 Rfe8 21.f3 Nd6 22.Qc3 Nf5 23.f4 c6 24.Qc5 Qxc5 25.Rxc5 Nxd4 26.Rxd4=* ½ (79) Adams,M (2758)-Boruchovsky,A (2501) Douglas 2014 *)* 19.Qxb6 Rxb6 20.f3 Nc5 21.Rac1 Nd7 22.Rxc7 Nxe5 23.b3 g5 24.Nac2 *(24.Nb1 Rfb8 25.Nc3 R8b7 26.Rc5±* ½- (39) ½ (39) Hansen,E (2574)-Mikhalevski,V (2550) Hoogeveen 2014*)* 24...Rd8 25.Ne3 Rd7 26.Rc5 Kg7 27.h4 h6 28.hxg5 hxg5 29.Kf2± 1-0 (41) Salem,A (2636)-Amin,B (2684) Abu Dhabi 2018;

A1b) 17...c5 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.f3 Ng5 20.Rxd5 exd5 21.Bxd5+ Ne6 22.b4 Qxb4 23.Bxe6+ Kh8 24.Rb1 Qd4 25.Qxd4 cxd4 26.Bd7± 1-0 (37) Perez Ponsa,F (2533)-Gonzalez Vidal,Y (2550) Montevideo (rapid) 2015;

A1c) 17...Rab8 18.Bc2 Nc6 19.Nxc6 Qxc6 20.Rac1 Qb6 21.Qxb6 cxb6 22.f3 Nc5 23.b4 Nd7 24.f4 g6 25.Bb3 Rbc8 26.Nc2± ½ (30) Brkic,A (2563)-Jojua,D (2590) Sarajevo 2017;

A1d) 17...Nc5 18.Nac2 Ncxb3 19.Nxb3 Qxe3 20.Nxe3 Nxb3 21.axb3 Rfd8 22.b4 d4 23.Nc2 d3 24.Ne1 Bf5∓ 0-1 (43) Kollars,D (2635)-Krasenkow,M (2576) Bydgoszcz 2022;

A2) 16...Qa7 17.Nc3 Nxc3 18.Qxc3 Nxb3 19.Nxb3 Rfc8 20.Rac1 c6 21.h3 Rab8 22.Rd2 h6 23.Qc5 Qxc5 24.Rxc5 g5 25.Nd4 Bd7 26.a3± ½- (45) ½ (45) McShane,L (2652)-Short,N (2679) London 2016;

A3) 16...c5 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.f3 c4 19.fxe4 *(19.Bc2 Qxb2-+; 19.Ba4 Qxb2 20.fxe4 Qxa1 21.exd5 Rad8 22.Nc3 Qb2 23.d6 Qa3 24.Qd4 Kh8 25.h3 Nb7 26.Kh2 Qc5∓* ½ (41) Kosteniuk,A (2546)-Muzychuk,A (2539) Kazan 2019 *)* 19...cxb3 20.exd5

A3a) 20...Nc4 21.Qd4 Qa7 *(21...bxa2 22.Qxc4 axb1Q 23.Raxb1 Qb6+ 24.Kh1 Rac8 25.Qa2 exd5 26.Qxd5+ Kh8 27.e6↑* ½-½ (61) Heilemann Paul (GER) (2530)-Sapundjiev Ing Georgi (BUL) (2529) corr. 1988 *)* 22.Qxa7 Rxa7 23.axb3 Ne3 24.Rc1 Raf7

A3a1) 25.Nd2 exd5!? *(25...Rf2 26.Nc4 Nxd5 27.Rxa6 Re2 28.Rxe6 Nf4 29.Rd6 Rxg2+ 30.Kh1 Re2 31.Rf1= ½-½* (50) Kosteniuk,A (2489)-Muzychuk,A (2594) Belgrade 2013*)* 26.Nf3 Nxg2 27.Ng5 Rf5 28.Ne6 Nf4!=;

A3a2) 25.Na3!? exd5 26.Nc2 Nxc2 27.Rxc2 Re8 28.Rxa6 Rxe5 29.Rc8+ Rf8 30.Rxf8+ Kxf8 31.Kf2±;

A3b) 20...bxa2 21.Rxa2 *(21.Nc3 exd5 22.Nxd5 Qxb2 23.e6 Nb3 24.e7 Nxa1 25.exf8Q+ Rxf8 26.Ne7+ Kh8 27.Ng6+ hxg6 28.Qh3+ Kg8 29.Qe6+ Kh7 30.Qh3+ Kg8 31.Qe6+ Kh7* ½-½ (31) Xu,Y (2502)-Li,D (2539) Xinghua 2022*)* 21...Nc4 *(21...Qb3 22.Qxb3 Nxb3 23.dxe6 Rf5 24.Rxa6 Re8 25.Rd5 Ref8 26.h3+-* 1-0 (30) Teclaf,P (2542)-Mikhalevski,V (2562) Warsaw 2021 *)* 22.Qd4

A3b1) 22...Nxe5 23.d6! *(23.Nc3 exd5 24.b4 Qa7 25.Qxa7 Rxa7 26.Nxd5 Rb8=)* 23...Rf5 24.Nc3 Qb3 25.h3 a5 Again White's pressure doesn't look that much.;

A3b2) 22...Qb3 23.Nc3

A3b21) 23...Nxb2 24.Rb1 Qc4 *(24...Rac8 25.Raxb2 Qxc3 26.Qxc3 Rxc3 27.d6± ½* (42) Burke,J (2522)-Repka,C (2491) Chess.com INT 2021*)* 25.Qxc4 Nxc4 26.dxe6 Rf5 27.Nd5 Rxe5 28.Rxa6 Re8 29.Nc7 Rd8 30.Rc6+- 1-0 (34) Nakamura,H (2736)-Carlsen,M (2863) chess24.com INT 2020;

A3b22) 23...Rac8

A3b221) 24.Rb1 Ne3 25.Qxe3 Rxc3 26.Qxc3 Qxa2 27.Rd1 exd5

A3b2211) 28.Qd4

A3b22111) 28...Re8?! Obviously played to control the e-pawn, but actually activity was essential: 29.Rc1 h6 30.h3 Now with a slightly passive rook on e8 it is more unpleasant for Black to defend. Kh8 31.e6 Rxe6? *(31...Qb3 32.Rc6 a5*

33.e7 Kh7 34.Qe5 d4 35.Qe4+ Kg8 36.Qxd4 Qf7 37.Rc2 Qxe7 38.Qd5+ Kh8 39.Qxa5 Qe3+ 40.Kh1 Pawn up for White, but still far from any real chances to play for win at least for the moment.*)* 32.Rc8+ Kh7 33.Qd3+ Re4 34.Qf1 Re5

A3b221111) 35.Qf7! Simply wins and Caruana didn't see it for a few moves more! Qxb2 *(35...Qa4 36.Kh2!* Black is in some kind of zugzwang!*)* 36.Qg8+ Kg6 37.Rc6+! Kf5 38.Qf7+ Ke4 39.Qf3+ Kd4 40.Qd1+ Ke4 41.Kh2+- Black can't survive with such a king in the centre.;

A3b221112) 35.Qd3+? Re4 36.Qf1 Re5 37.Qd3+ Re4 38.Qf1 ½-½ (38) Caruana,F (2804)-Giri,A (2790) Shamkir 2016;

A3b22112) 28...Rb8! 29.Rc1 *(29.e6 Rxb2 30.Qxd5 Qxd5 31.Rxd5 Kf8=)* 29...h6 *(29...Re8 30.h3 h6 31.Kh2 Qb3 32.Rc7±* 1-0 (39) Predojevic,B (2640)-Papp,G (2583) Austria 2017 *)* 30.h3 *(30.e6 Kh7 31.e7 Re8!* should be ok for Black *)* 30...Kh7 31.Qd3+ Kh8 32.Qd2 Kh7 It is not clear how to improve from here.;

A3b22113) 28...Qc4 29.Qxd5+ Qxd5 30.Rxd5 Re8 31.Rd6 *(31.Kf2 Rb8 32.e6 Rxb2+ 33.Kf3 Kf8= ½* (39) Shevchenko, K (2592)-Savanovic,A (2410) Chess.com INT 2020*)* 31...Rxe5 32.Rxa6= ½ (41) Wei,Y (2729)-Vidit,S (2718) Danzhou 2018;

A3b2212) 28.h3 Qc4 29.Qa5 d4 30.Qb6 d3 31.Qd6 Re8 32.b4 Qe4 33.Qxd3 Qxd3 34.Rxd3 Rxe5= ½ (36) Ma,Q (2666)-Li,D (2575) Fuling 2022;

A3b222) 24.h3 Nxb2 25.Rb1 Qxc3 26.Qxc3 Rxc3 27.Rbxb2 exd5 28.Rxa6= ½ (32) Tari,A (2613)-Robson,R (2667) Saint Louis 2019;

A3b223) 24.dxe6 Nxb2

A3b2231) 25.e7 Rfe8 26.Rf1 *(26.Qd5+ Qxd5 27.Rxd5 Rxc3 28.Rxb2 Rxe7=)* 26...Qxc3 27.Qxc3 Rxc3 28.Rxb2 Rc7= ½ (32) Sjugirov,S (2663)-Bologan,V (2574) Chess.com INT 2021;

A3b2232) 25.Rb1 Qxc3 26.Qxc3 Rxc3 27.Raxb2 Re8 *(27...Rc6 28.Rb6 Rxb6 29.Rxb6 Ra8=)* 28.Rb6 Rc5 29.Re1= ½- (48) ½ (48) Niemann,H (2642)-Sevian,S (2684) Saint Louis 2022 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-14.Qe3 Qb8 15.Bb3 Na5 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik];

B) 16.Ne1

B1) 16...Qb6! 17.Qxb6 cxb6 18.f3= Karpov,An-Kortschnoj,V/Wch Baguio/ 1978/ *(18.Bc2 Nc4 19.f3 Nc5 20.b4 Nd7 21.f4 Rac8 22.f5 Ne3 23.fxe6*

fxe6 24.Nd2 Nxc2 0-1 Lenz,A (2280)-Kolev,A (2445)/Vienna 1990*/)* 18...Nxb3 19.axb3 Nc5 20.b4 Nd7 21.Nd3 g5 22.Nc3 Rfc8 23.Nf2 d4 24.Ne2 d3 25.Nxd3 Bc4 26.Ng3 Bxd3 27.Rxd3 Nxe5 28.Rd5 Ng6 29.Rxg5± ½ (44) Karpov,A (2725)-Kortschnoj,V (2665) Baguio City 1978;

B2) 16...Nxb3 17.axb3 f5 *(17...Qb6 18.Qxb6 cxb6 19.b4±* Huebner,R-Demarre/Dresden/1969/ *)*

B2a) 18.Nd3 d4! 19.Qxd4 *(19.Qe2 Bxb3 20.Rc1 Qb6 21.Nd2 Bd5 22.f3 Ng5 23.Rc5 c6 24.Nc4 Bxc4 25.Rxc4 Ne6 26.Qc2± ½-* (42) ½ (42) Brenjo,S (2485)-Iordachescu,V (2584) Zlatibor 2007*)* 19...Rd8 20.Qe3 Qb6 21.Ra3 Rd4 22.Rf1 Rad8 23.Nf4 Nxf2!∓ Ude-Kuuskmaa,E / corr 1978;

B2b) 18.exf6 Rxf6 19.f3 *(19.Nf3? Bg4 20.Rxd5 Bxf3 21.gxf3 c6 22.Rh5 Rg6+ 23.Kh1 Qf4!-+* Preinfalk,A-Kuuskmaa,E / corr 1977*)* 19...Nd6 20.Nd2 Rh6 *(20...Bf5 21.Rac1 Nb5 22.Nf1 c6 23.Ng3 Bg6 24.Nd3 Bxd3 25.Rxd3 Qa7 26.Qxa7 Rxa7=* ½ (50) Azarov,S (2452)-Golod,V (2593) Ohrid 2001 *)*

B2b1) 21.Rdc1 c5! 22.Nf1 c4 23.bxc4 dxc4 24.Ng3 a5∓ Sakharov,V-Oim,T / corr 1977;

B2b2) 21.Nd3 Nf5 *(21...c5!∞)* 22.Qc5!± Oechslein,R-Lanka,ZF,corr 1988;

B2b3) 21.Nf1 Bd7 *(21...Bf7! 22.Ng3 Re6=* Loginov,VN-Holscher,HGJ,CCYB5,1991 *)* 22.Nd3 Nf5 23.Qc5 Qb6= Kuuskmaa,E;

C) 16.Bxd5 '?' Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Qxb2 18.Qxe4

C1) 18...Qxa1 19.Rxa5 Rab8 '!' *(19...Rfd8 '?' 20.Qe1 Rab8 21.Nc3)* 20.Nfd2 Rfd8 '-+';

C2) 18...Rad8 '-+';

D) 16.Nc3 Nxb3 17.axb3 Nxc3 18.Qxc3 c5 19.Qxc5 Qxb3 20.Rd2 Rac8 21.Qa5 Qc4 22.h3 Qc7 23.Qxc7 Rxc7 24.Nd4 g5 25.f3± 1-0 (56) Nisipeanu,L (2668)-Amin,B (2561) Khanty-Mansiysk 2007;

E) 16.Nbd2

E1) 16...Nxd2 17.Rxd2 *(17.Nxd2 Rd8!* Δ d4/ *)* 17...Nxb3 18.axb3± × c5/ Rc8 Δ c5/ *(18...h6 19.Rc1 a5 20.Nd4 Ra6 21.Rdc2 a4 22.bxa4 Rxa4 23.b3 Ra3 24.Rxc7 Qb4 25.Nc2* 1-0 (25) Kollars,D (2622)-Bologan,V (2574) Chess.com INT 2021*; 18...Qb7 19.Rc1 Rfc8 20.Rc5 Qb4 21.h3 a5 22.Rdc2 Rab8 23.Nd4 Rb6 24.Rxc7 Rxc7 25.Rxc7+-* 1-0 (48) Vazquez,G (2527)-Yilmaz,M (2630) Lichess.org INT 2021 *)* 19.Rc1

E1a) 19...c5 20.Rxc5 Rxc5 21.Qxc5 Qxb3 22.Nd4 Qb7 *(22...Qc4 23.Qxc4 dxc4 24.f4 Rc8 25.Kf2 c3 26.bxc3 Rxc3 27.f5±* ½ (54) Fedorchuk,S (2637)-Georgiadis,I (2467) Germany 2015 *)* 23.h3± Keres,P-Euwe,M/Haag-Moscow(Wm)/1948/1:0/34/;

E1b) 19...Qb4 20.Rc5 Rab8 21.Rd3 Rb5 22.Rc6 Rb6 23.Rxb6 Qxb6 24.Qxb6 cxb6 25.Rc3 Rxc3 26.bxc3= ½ (42) Ivanchuk,V (2786)-Nakamura,H (2704) Cap d'Agde 2008;

E1c) 19...a5 20.h3 a4 21.bxa4 Rxa4 22.Rc5 Qb4 23.Kh2 Ra5 24.Rc6 *(24.Rdc2 Rxc5 25.Qxc5 Qxc5 26.Rxc5 Rb8!=)* 24...Bd7 25.Nd4 h6

E1c1) 26.Rdc2 Ra4 *(26...Bxc6? 27.Nxc6 Qa4 28.b3+-; 26...Qb7 27.Qc3!±)* 27.Rxc7 Rxc7 28.Rxc7 Qxd4 29.Qxd4 Rxd4 30.Rxd7±;

E1c2) 26.e6!? fxe6 27.Rxe6↑;

E1c3) 26.g3? Raa8! 27.Rc1 c5 28.Nf3 d4∓ 0-1 Kotkov,Y-Kortschnoj,V/Molotov 1956/ (50);

E2) 16...Nxb3

E2a) 17.axb3 c5 18.Rac1 *(18.Nxe4)* 18...h6 19.h3 Rc8 20.g4 a5 21.Nxe4 dxe4 22.Qxe4 Qxb3 23.Rd2 a4 24.Rxc5 Rd8 25.Rc3± ½ (78) Ponomariov,R (2703)-Oparin,G (2604) Riga 2021;

E2b) 17.Nxb3 c5 18.Nxc5 Nxc5 19.Qxc5 Qxb2 20.Qd4 *(20.Qe3 Rfc8 21.Nd4 Rc4 22.f4 g6 23.Rab1 Qxa2 24.f5 Rxd4 25.Qxd4 Bxf5 26.Ra1± ½ (47) Grigoriants,S (2539)-Oparin,G (2652) Chess.com INT 2020)* 20...Rab8 21.h3 Rfc8 22.Qxb2 Rxb2 23.Nd4 g5 24.Rdb1 Rd2 25.Rd1 Rb2 26.Rdb1 Rd2 27.Rd1 Rb2 ½-½ (27) Kamsky,G (2655)-Oparin,G (2683) Chess.com INT 2022;

E3) 16...Qb6 17.Qxb6 cxb6 18.Nd4 Rac8 19.Nxe4 Nxb3 20.Nd6 Nxa1 21.Nxc8 Rxc8 22.Rxa1 g5 23.f3 Rc4 24.Rd1± ½ (44) Das,A (2434)-Karthikeyan,M (2578) Patna 2017;

E4) 16...Qa7

E4a) 17.Nd4 Nxd2 18.Qxd2 *(18.Rxd2 c5 19.Nf3 Nxb3 20.Qxb3 Rab8 21.Qa3 Rb5 22.Rc1 Qb6=* Ivanovic,B-Beckemeyer,W / Berlin op 1988*)* 18...Qb6 '!' *(≤18...Nxb3 19.Nxb3 c5 20.Rac1 Rfc8 21.Qa5 c4□ 22.Nd4 Qb8 23.f4 Qxb2? 24.Rb1!+-)* 19.Bc2 *(19.Qc3 c5 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Bc2 Ra7 22.b3 Raf7 23.f3* ½-½ (23) Romanishin,O (2580)-Luczak,A (2430) Polanica Zdroj 1980 *)*

E4a1) 19...Nc4!? '?' 20.Qe2 '!' c5 *(20...Nxb2 21.Rab1 Rab8 22.Rd2!; 20...Qxb2 21.Rab1 Qa3 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Qh5)* 21.Nf3 Rad8 22.Bd3 Bg4 23.Bxh7+ Kxh7 24.Ng5+ Kg8 25.Qxg4 Nxe5= Hort,V-Blauert,J / FRG-ch 1989;

E4a2) 19...c5 '!' 20.Nf5

E4a21) 20...Qxb2? 21.Rab1 Qa3 *(21...Qxe5 22.Ne7+* 23. ♕a5 *)* 22.Nxg7! Kxg7 23.Qg5+ Kh8 24.Qf6+ Kg8 25.Rd3;

E4a22) 20...Bxf5 21.Bxf5 Rad8

E4a221) 22.Re1 Kavalek,L-Tal,M/Montreal (18)/½-½/ Nc6!∞ *(22...Nc4 23.Qg5→)*

E4a2211) 23.e6? fxe6 24.Rxe6? *(24.Bxe6+ Kh8 25.Bxd5? Nb4!-+ 26.Re5 Qd6)* 24...Rxf5-+;

E4a2212) 23.Rac1 Nd4 24.Bb1 f5 *(24...a5 25.Rc3 f5)* 25.exf6 Rxf6∞ Kavalek;

E4a222) 22.b3 Rfe8 23.Re1 c4 24.Qg5 *(24.bxc4 dxc4 25.Qc3 Qc5 26.Re3 Rd5 27.Rae1∞)*

E4a2221) 24...cxb3 25.axb3 Nxb3 26.Rab1
E4a22211) 26...Qa5? 27.Re3 Nd2 *(27...Nc5 28.Rh3 h6 29.Rxh6 Rxe5 30.Bh7+ Kf8 31.Qxe5 gxh6 32.Qf6!±)* 28.Bxh7+ Kxh7 29.Rg3!**±**;
E4a22212) 26...a5
E4a222121) 27.e6! f6 *(27...fxe6 28.Rxe6! Rxe6 29.Bxe6+ Kh8 30.Rxb3!; 27...g6 28.Qf6!)* 28.Qh5**±** *(28.Bxh7+!)*;
E4a222122) 27.Re3? a4! *(27...h6? 28.Qg4 a4 29.Qxa4 Nc5 30.Qxe8+!+-)*
E4a2221221) 28.Qh4! g6 29.Qxa4 *(29.Rh3 gxf5! 30.Qxh7+ Kf8 31.Qh8+ Ke7 32.Qh4+ Kf8 33.Qxa4 Rxe5)* 29...gxf5 30.Rexb3;
E4a2221222) 28.Bxh7+ Kxh7 29.Rh3+ *(29.Qh4+ Qh6 30.Qxa4 Nc5 31.Qc2+ Qg6!∓; 29.Rg3 Qg6 30.Qh4+ Qh6 31.Qxa4 Nd2)* 29...Kg8 30.Qh4 Qh6! 31.Qxa4 Nc5 32.Qc2 Qg6!**∓**;
E4a2222) 24...Qc7! 25.e6**±** 0-1 (41) Kavalek,L (2590)-Karpov,A (2705) Montreal 1979;

E4b) 17.Rac1 Qxe3 18.fxe3 c5 19.Nxe4 Nxb3 20.axb3 dxe4 21.Nd2 Rfd8 22.Nxe4 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Bxb3 24.Rd6 c4= ½ (33) Tomczak,J (2601)-Krasenkow,M (2620) Warsaw 2017;

E4c) 17.Qxa7 One of the two alternatives. Rxa7
E4c1) 18.Nd4 Nxd2 19.Rxd2 c5 20.Nc2 Nxb3 21.axb3 d4 22.b4= Kuipers,F-Langeweg,K / NLD 1968;
E4c2) 18.Nxe4 '?!' Nxb3 19.axb3 Adorjan,A-Huebner,R / Bad Lauterberg cq 1980 dxe4 20.Nd4 '=' *(20.Nd2 Bd5 21.Re1 Re8 22.Nxe4 Rxe5 23.Nc5 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Bc6 25.f3 ½-½ (25) Hort,V (2615)-Timman,J (2610) Rotterdam 1984)* 20...c5 *(20...Rb7 21.Rxa6 Bxb3 22.Nxb3 Rxb3 23.Rc6 Rb5 24.Rxc7 Rxe5 25.g3 Rb5 26.Re7 Rxb2 27.Rxe4=* ½ (30) Lu,S (2619)-Wei,Y (2700) Xinghua 2016 *; 20...Bd7 21.Ra5 Re8 22.Re1 f5 23.f3 Rb7 24.fxe4 fxe4 25.Rxe4 Rb4 26.Rc5±* 1-0 (41) Van der Wiel,J (2465)-Timman,J (2600) Nijmegen 1980 *)*
E4c21) 21.Nc6 Rb7 22.b4 cxb4 23.Rxa6 Rc8 *(23...Bc4 24.Ra5 Bd3 25.f4 Rc8 26.Nd4 e3=* 1-0 (57) Radulski,J (2574)-Erdos,V (2592) Warsaw 2010 *)*;
E4c22) 21.Nxe6 fxe6
E4c221) 22.Rd6
E4c2211) 22...Kf7 23.Rdxa6 Rxa6 24.Rxa6 Rb8 25.Ra3 Kg6 '**∓**';
E4c2212) 22...Rb7 23.Rxe6 Rxb3 24.Rexa6 *(24.Ra2 e3 25.fxe3 Rxe3 26.Ra1 Re2=* ½ (31) Wang,Y (2690)-Wen,Y

(2585) China 2018*)* 24...Rxb2 25.e6 Rfxf2 26.e7 Rxg2+ 27.Kf1 Kf7 28.Re6 Rgf2+ 29.Kg1 Rg2+ 30.Kf1 Rgf2+ ½-½ (30) Sutovsky,E (2647)-Vidit,S (2707) Poikovsky 2018;

E4c2213) 22...Raf7 23.Rf1 e3 24.f3 Rf5 25.Rxe6 Kf7 26.Rxa6 Rxe5 '∓';

E4c222) 22.Re1 Rb8 23.Ra3 Rab7 24.Rxa6 Rxb3 25.Rxe6 Rxb2 26.Rc6 Rf8 27.e6 Rfxf2 28.Rc8+ Rf8 29.Rxc5 h6 30.e7 Re8 31.Rxe4 Rb7 32.Rce5 Kf7 ½-½ (32) Szabo,G (2560)-Horvath,J (2520) Budapest 2018;

E4c223) 22.Ra5? 22.♖d6! = 22...Raf7!∓;

E4c3) 18.Rac1 c5 Forcing some exchanges. *(18...Rb8 19.Nd4)*

E4c31) 19.Ba4 Nxd2 20.Nxd2 Nc4 *(20...Rc8 21.b3 Rac7 22.f4 h6 23.Kf2 Nb7 24.Nf3 Nd8 25.h3 f5 26.exf6 gxf6 27.Be8=* 1-0 (59) Quesada Perez,Y (2645)-Gonzalez Vidal,Y (2550) Montevideo 2015*)* 21.Nxc4 dxc4 22.b3 cxb3 23.Bxb3 Bxb3 24.axb3 Rb7 25.Rc3 g6 26.g3 Rfb8 27.Rdd3= ½ (38) Moranda,W (2618)-Heberla,B (2556) Bydgoszcz 2021;

E4c32) 19.Bc2 Nxd2 20.Rxd2 h6 21.b3 Rc8 22.Bd3 c4 23.bxc4 dxc4 24.Be4 Rd7 25.Rxd7 Bxd7 26.Nd4 g5= 1-0 (54) Safarli,E (2678)-Brkic,A (2585) Biel 2016;

E4c33) 19.Nxe4 Nxb3 '!'

E4c331) 20.Nf6+ gxf6 21.axb3 fxe5 22.Nxe5 Rc8 *(22...Rb8 23.Nc6 Rab7 24.Nxb8 Rxb8 25.Rxc5 Rxb3 26.Rd2+-* 1-0 (30) Kamsky,G (2666)-Harvey,M (2456) Chess.com INT 2022*)* 23.Nd3 c4 24.bxc4 dxc4 25.Nf4 Rb7 26.Rd2 c3 27.Nxe6 fxe6 28.Rdc2± 1-0 (57) Kamsky,G (2655)-Wagner,D (2569) Chess.com INT 2022;

E4c332) 20.axb3 dxe4 21.Nd2

E4c3321) 21...Bf5 is also equal but I did not want to suffer. 22.Nc4 *(22.Rxc5? Rd8∓ × ♘d2/)* 22...f6= Jansa,V-Haba,P/ GER/1990/0,5/51/;

E4c3322) 21...e3! 22.fxe3 Rb7 23.Ne4 Rxb3 24.Nxc5 Rxe3= Matanovic,A-Kortschnoj,V / JUG-URS 1966 *(24...Rxb2 25.Nxa6 h5 26.Nc5 Re8 27.Nd3 Re2 28.Re1 Rxe1+ 29.Nxe1=* ½ (81) Kollars,D (2622)-Abdusattorov,N (2633) Sitges 2021 *)* 25.Nxa6 Rxe5 26.b4 h5 '!?' I was dreaming about a pawn march in the kingside to fix his ones on the light squares. *(26...Rb5 27.Rc5 Rb6 28.b5 h6 29.Nc7 Rfb8 30.Rc6 Kf8* '=' *)* 27.Rc5 '!' I knew that this was coming.More exchanges!

E4c33221) 27...Re2 '?' 28.Rxh5 Rb2 *(28...Ra2 29.Rd6 Bc4 30.Nc5 Re8 31.h3 Rb2 32.Rb6* '±' *)* 29.Rd4 '±';

E4c33222) 27...Rxc5 I did not like to give a pawn for nothing.

E4c332221) I like 28.bxc5 more Rc8 29.Rc1

E4c3322211) Black bishop should not change the diagonals. 29...Bd5 '?' 30.Nb4 Be4 31.c6 Kf8 *(31...Rc7 '?' 32.Rc4 f5 33.Rxe4 '!' fxe4 34.Nd5 '+-')* 32.Rc4 f5 33.h4 Ke7 34.Kh2 Kd6 35.Kg3 Bxc6 36.Nxc6 Rxc6 37.Rxc6+ Kxc6 38.Kf4 Kd5 39.Kxf5 Kd4 40.Kg6 '+-';

E4c3322212) 29...h4 30.Kf2 g5 31.c6 Kg7 32.c7 Kf6 '=';

E4c332222) 28.Nxc5 This is not that dangerous for both sides! 28...Bc4= ½-½ Goloshchapov,A (2523)-Atalik,S (2581)/Nova Gorica 2003/ (31);

E4d) 17.Nxe4 Qxe3 18.fxe3 Nxb3 19.axb3 dxe4 20.Nd4

E4d1) 20...Bd7 21.Rdc1 Ra7 22.Rc5 '⩲';

E4d2) 20...Rab8 21.Rdc1 Bxb3 22.Rxc7 Rb6 23.Ra7 Bd5 24.b3 Rbb8 25.Ra3 Rfe8 26.R7xa6 Rxe5 27.Rd6± 1-0 (45) Timman,J (2655)-Tal,M (2605) Wijk aan Zee 1982;

E4d3) 20...c5

E4d31) 21.Nc6 Rfe8 22.Ra5 Bxb3 23.Rd6 h6 *(23...Kf8 24.Rxc5 Rac8 25.Ra5 Bc4 26.Nd4 Bd3 27.Kf2± ½* (36) Van den Doel,E (2598)-Ernst,S (2553) Amstelveen 2019*)* 24.h4 h5 25.Kh2 Kf8 26.Kg3 Rec8 27.Rxc5 Ba4 28.b4 Bxc6 29.Rcxc6 Rxc6 30.Rxc6= ½ (88) Giri,A (2782)-Mamedyarov,S (2801) Chess.com INT 2018;

E4d32) 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Rd7 Rf5 23.Ra5 Rxe5 24.b4 Rc8 25.h4 Rd5 26.Rb7 cxb4 27.Rxa6± ½-½ (32) Czarnota,D (2212)-Landa,K (2574)/Cappelle la Grande 2005/ (44);

E4d4) 20...Rfb8!

E4d41) 21.Rac1 Bxb3 22.Rd2 Rb7! 23.Nxb3 Rxb3 24.Rxc7 Rd3 25.Rdc2 Rf8!= Abramovic,B-Chekhov,V / Moscow 1982;

E4d42) 21.Ra3 c5 *(21...Rb6 22.Rc1 Rc8 23.Rc6 Rxc6 24.Nxc6 Kf8 25.Kf2 Ke8 26.Kg3 Kd7 27.Nb4± ½-½* (30) Koch,J (2450)-Hardarson,R (2335)/Reykjavik 1993/ (61)*)* 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Rd6 Kf7 24.Kf2 Ra7= ½ (51) Gdanski,J (2557)-Sokolov,I (2611) Neum 2000;

E4d43) 21.Rdc1

E4d431) 21...Rb7 22.Ra3 g6 *(22...h6 23.Kf2 Rab8 24.Kg3 Rb6 25.b4 Bd5 26.b5 axb5 27.Rxc7± ½* (34) Motylev,A (2632)-Ioannidis,E (2459) Novi Sad 2022*)* 23.Kf2 Rab8 24.Rxa6 Bxb3 25.Kg3 Bd5 26.Rc5 c6 27.Nxc6 Bxc6 28.Raxc6 Rb3 29.Rc3 Rxb2= ½ (57) Liang,A (2592)-Abdusattorov,N (2634) chess24.com INT 2021;

E4d432) 21...Bxb3 22.Rxc7 Be6 *(22...Bd5 23.b4 Rxb4 24.Rxa6 Rf8 25.Rd6 Rb7 26.Rxb7 Bxb7 27.e6 fxe6 28.Nxe6 Rf6 29.Rd8+ Kf7 30.Nc5 Bc6 31.Rd4 Kf8 ½-½* (31) Sebag,M (2447)-Koneru,H (2586) Chennai 2022*)* 23.Rd1 *(23.Nxe6 fxe6*

24.Rd1 Rd8 25.Rd6 Rxd6 26.exd6 Rd8 27.Rc6= ½ (65) Baklan,V (2612)-Ernst,S (2554) Ortisei 2012 *)*

E4d4321) 23...Rxb2 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.Rdd7 Rb1+ 26.Kf2 Rb2+ 27.Kg3 Kh8 28.Rxg7 *(28.Ra7 Rg8 29.Rd4 h6 30.Rxe4 Rb6=* 1-0 (50) Timman,J (2565)-Holzke,F (2461) Germany 2007*)* 28...Rg8 29.Rxg8+ Kxg8 30.Rc6 *(30.Re7 Rb6 31.Kf4 a5 32.Ra7 Rb2 33.g4 Rxh2 34.Rxa5 h5=* ½ (43) Muzychuk,A (2534)-Saduakassova,D (2489) Struga 2021 *)* 30...Kf7 31.Rxa6 Re2= ½ (59) Giri,A (2779)-Anand,V (2767) Zagreb 2019;

E4d4322) 23...Rb6 24.b4 h6 25.Nc6 Re8 26.Kf2 Kh7= 1-0 (39) Tal,M (2605)-Sturua,Z (2440) Yerevan 1982 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-15.Bb3 Na5 16.Nbd2 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

16.Qe2

[16.Qxb6 cxb6

A) 17.Na3 Rfd8 *(17...Nc5 18.Bxd5 Bxd5 19.Rxd5 Rfd8 20.Rad1 Rxd5 21.Rxd5 Nb4 22.Rd4 Nxa2=* ½ (72) Kosteniuk,A (2529)-Muzychuk,M (2526) Chengdu 2015*)* 18.Nc2 *(18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.Rxd4 Nc5 20.Nc2 a5 21.Ne3 Nxb3 22.axb3 Rac8 23.Rad1 Rc5 24.f4±* ½ (32) Iniyan,P (2516)-Lalith,B (2563) Kanpur 2022*; 18.h3 Rac8 19.Rac1 h6 20.Nc2 Na5 21.Nb4 Nxb3 22.axb3 a5 23.Nc6±* ½ (59) Inarkiev,E (2732)-Banusz,T (2613) Monzon 2016 *)*

A1) 18...Na5

A1a) 19.Nb4

A1a1) 19...Nxb3 20.axb3 a5 21.Nc6 Re8 22.Nfd4 *(22.b4 Bd7 23.Rac1 Rac8 24.b5 Nc5 25.Nfd4±* 1-0 (38) Kriebel,T (2519)-Simacek,P (2481) Marianske Lazne 2019*)* 22...Bd7 23.f3 Nc5 24.b4 axb4 25.Nxb4 Rxa1 26.Rxa1 Rxe5 27.Ra8+ Re8 28.Rxe8+ Bxe8 29.Nxd5**±** ½ (49) Benjamin,J (2506)-Kaidanov,G (2549) Lichess.org INT 2020;

A1a2) 19...Nc4 20.Rab1 Nc5 21.Nc6 Re8 22.Nfd4 Rac8 23.h3 Bd7 24.Nb4 Rxe5 25.Nf3 Ree8 26.Nxd5**±** ½ (74) Giri,A (2767)-Papp,G (2587) Novi Sad 2016;

A1b) 19.Ncd4 Nc4 20.Rab1 Rac8 21.h3

A1b1) 21...h6 22.Bc2 *(22.Re1 Nc5 23.Bc2 Bd7 24.Re2 Re8 25.b3 Na3 26.Rd1 Bb5=* ½ (35) Ivanovic,B (2535)-Timman,J (2630) Belgrade 1987 *)* 22...b5 23.Re1 Nc5 24.Re2 b4 25.Ne1 a5 26.Nd3 Ne4 27.Nf4**±** 1-0 (83) Sjugirov,S (2612)-Vitiugov,N (2694) Moscow 2009;

A1b2) 21...g6 22.Bc2 Bd7 23.Re1 Nc5 24.Re2 a5 25.Kh2 Re8 26.g4= ½ (60) Kovalev,V (2664)-Wagner,D (2572) Douglas 2018;

A2) 18...Nc5 19.Ncd4 Na5 *(19...Nb4 20.a3 Nbd3 21.Rd2 Nxb3 22.Nxb3 Nc5 23.Nxc5 bxc5 24.Rc1 Rdc8 25.Rdc2 Rab8 26.Rxc5 Rxc5 27.Rxc5 Rxb2 28.h3±* 1-0 (55) Muzychuk,M (2528)-Koneru,H (2578) Monte Carlo

2015*; 19...Nxb3 20.axb3 Nb4 21.Ne1 Rdc8 22.f4 a5 23.f5 Bd7 24.Nd3 Nc2 25.Nxc2 Rxc2 26.Nb4 Rxb2 27.Nxd5±* 1-0 (41) Perunovic,M (2613)-Ringoir,T (2514) Warsaw 2013*)* 20.Bc2 Nc4 21.b3 Na3 22.Bd3 Rac8 23.Nxe6 fxe6 24.Be2 Nc2 25.Rac1± ½- (34) ½ (34) Zhigalko,S (2638)-Anton Guijarro,D (2651) Heraklion 2017;

B) 17.Nbd2 Rfd8 18.h3 *(18.Rac1 Na5 19.Nd4 Nc5 20.Rc3 Nc4 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Nxc4 dxc4 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Bxc4 Rd1+ 25.Bf1 Ne4 26.Rd3 Nd2∓* 0-1 (33) Grigoriants,S (2542)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020 *)* 18...Kf8 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Bxe6 exf3 21.Bd5 Rac8 22.Bxc6 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Rxc6 24.gxf3 Rc2 25.b4 Rxa2 26.Rd6 b5= 1-0 (55) Sevian,S (2660)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020]

[16.Nbd2 Nxd2 17.Rxd2 Ne7 18.Rc1 Rac8 19.Qc5 Qxc5 20.Rxc5 c6 21.Nd4 Bd7 22.Ba4 Rc7 23.Rdc2 Rfc8 24.f4 h6 25.b4 g6 26.Kf2± 1-0 (58) Kosakowski,J (2432)-Christiansen,J (2607) Maia 2022]

16...Rad8

[16...Ne7 17.Nc3 Nxc3 18.bxc3 c5 *(18...c6 19.Nd4 c5 20.Nxe6 Qxe6 21.c4 d4 22.Re1 Rab8 23.Bc2 Rb4 24.Bd3 Rfb8 25.Qe4 g6 26.Qf4 Rb2∓* 1-0 (41) Robson,R (2680)-Fishbein,A (2489) Las Vegas 2015*)* 19.Ng5 *(19.Rab1 Rab8 20.Bc2 Qc6 21.Ng5 Bf5 22.Bxf5 Nxf5 23.e6 f6±)*

A) 19...c4 20.Bc2 h6 21.Nf3 *(21.Qh5 Qb2 22.Rac1 Rab8)* 21...Bg4 22.h3 Bxf3 23.Qxf3 Qb2 24.Rdc1 Rad8 25.Qe3 d4⇄ 26.cxd4 Qxd4 27.Qe4 Qxe4 28.Bxe4 Rd4= 1-0 (60) Kavalek,L (2590)-Smyslov,V (2560) Solingen 1979;

B) 19...h6 20.Nxe6 Qxe6 21.f4 *(*RR *21.Re1± Δ* ♖ad1/ *)* 21...Rad8 22.Rd2± Korchnoi/ *(22.Qf2 c4 23.Bc2 f6 24.Re1 fxe5 25.Rxe5 Qxe5 26.fxe5 Rxf2 27.Kxf2 Nc6 28.Re1 Rf8+ 29.Ke3 g5±* Ligterink,G-Bellin,R/NED-ENG/1977/ *)*]

17.Nc3 Nxc3 18.bxc3 Qc5?!

[RR 18...Ne7 19.Rab1 Qa5 20.c4 dxc4 *(20...Rfe8? 21.Ng5±* Tal,M-Geller,E/Budva/1967/1:0/24/*)* 21.Bxc4 Bxc4 22.Qxc4± Vogt,L-Strobel,F/Vraca(zt)/1975/0,5/40/]

19.h3 Bc8

[RR 19...a5!? 20.Qd3 Ne7±]

20.Qd3 Rfe8 21.Re1 Δ ♘g5 21...g6?!

[RR 21...Ne7!? 22.Ba4 c6 23.Nd4 Bd7± Δ a5]

22.Rad1 a5?!

[RR 22...Ne7! 23.Qd2 Kg7 24.Qf4± Korchnoi/]

[RR 22...Kg7 23.Qd2 *(*RR *23.Bxd5?? Ne7 24.c4 c6-+)* 23...h6 24.Qf4 Bf5 25.Nh4 Be6 26.Rd3→]

23.Ba4! Bd7??

[RR 23...Bb7!

A) RR 24.Qb5?! Qxb5 25.Bxb5 Rf8 *(*RR *25...Re7!? 26.Nd4 Na7± Δ* c5/ *)* 26.Nd4 Na7± Δ c5/;

B) 24.Rb1 Ba8±]

24.Qxd5+- 1-0 Huebner,R (2600)-Kortschnoj,V (2650)/Solingen 1973/ (34) Ruy

[27] **10.Qe2** 0-0 11.Be3
[11.Nbd2 Bf5 12.e6 Nf6 13.exf7+ Rxf7 14.Nb1 Qd7 15.Bg5 Re8 16.Qd1 Na5 17.Nd4 Nc4 18.Bxf6 Rxf6 19.Nd2 Nxb2 20.Qh5 Nc4-+ 0-1 (65) Kalezic,B (2460)-Caruana,F (2646) Budva 2009]
11...f6 12.exf6
[12.Nd4 Bxd4 13.cxd4 fxe5 14.dxe5 Qe7 15.Nc3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Nxe5 17.Bd4 Nc4 18.Bxc4 bxc4∓ Gligoric,S-Unzicker,W / Oberhausen 1961]
12...Qxf6 13.Nbd2 Bd6 14.a4 Nxd2 15.Qxd2 Ne5 16.Nxe5 Qxe5 17.f4 Qh5 R-R; Bertok,M-Geller,E / Stockholm izt 1962

10.a4 b4
[10...0-0 11.axb5 *(11.Nbd2 b4 12.Bc2 bxc3 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Bxe4 Qxd1 15.Rxd1 Rfd8 16.Re1 cxb2 17.Bxb2 Rab8 18.Ba3 Bxa3 19.Rxa3 Bd5 20.g3 Ne7 21.Rc3 c6 22.Bxd5 Rxd5 23.Rc4=* 1-0 (42) Kupreichik,V (2510)-Mikhalchishin,A (2490) Lvov 1988*)* 11...axb5 12.Rxa8 Qxa8 13.Nbd2 Rd8 14.Qe2 Nxf2 15.Rxf2 Qa1 16.Qe1 Bf5 17.Nf1 Bxf2+ 18.Kxf2 Be4 19.e6 fxe6 20.Ng3 Na5 21.Bc2 Bxc2 22.Qxe6+ Kh8 23.Bh6 Rg8 24.Bxg7+ Kxg7 25.Qe7+ Kh6 26.Qf6+ Rg6 27.Qf8+ Rg7 28.Qf4+ 1-0 (28) Onischuk,V (2612)-Kantor,G (2582) Chennai 2022]
11.a5 0-0 12.Ba4 Ne7 13.Nd4 Rb8 14.Be3 Nf5 15.Qf3 Bxd4 16.cxd4 f6 17.Nd2 Nxd2 18.Bxd2 Nxd4 19.Qe3 fxe5 20.Qxe5 Qf6 21.Qxc7 Rbc8 22.Qd6 Rcd8 23.Qxa6 Qg6 24.Kh1 Kh8 25.Bxb4 Nf3 26.Bxf8 Nh4 27.Rg1 Rxf8 28.Rae1 1-0 (28) Polgar,J (2630)-Piket,J (2605) Monte Carlo 1994

10.Bf4 g5 11.Be3 Bxe3 12.fxe3 g4 13.Nd4 Nxe5 14.Nd2 Nxd2 15.Qxd2 c5
[15...Qg5 16.Qf2 0-0 17.Qg3 c5 18.Nf5 Ng6 19.Bc2 Rad8 20.a4 Rfe8 21.Nd6 Re7 22.axb5 axb5 23.Bxg6 hxg6∓ 0-1 (42) McShane,L (2467)-Rogozenco,D (2576) Germany 1999]
16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.a4 b4 18.cxb4 c4 19.Qd4 Qc7 20.Bd1 0-0-0 21.b5 g3 22.hxg3 Rhg8 23.g4 Rg6 24.b3± 1-0 (35) Murey,J (2463)-Haba,P (2545) Cappelle la Grande 1999

[28] **12...Bg4** 13.Nxc5
[13.Qe1! Bxf3 14.gxf3 Ng5 *(14...Nxe5 15.Kg2!)* 15.Qe2→ Mednis]
[13.h3 Bh5 14.g4 Bg6 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Nxc5 exf3 17.Bf4 Qxd1 18.Raxd1 Nd8 19.Rd7 Ne6 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Be3 Rac8 22.Rfd1 Be4 23.Bc5± 1-0 (50) Karpov,A (2725)-Kortschnoj,V (2665) Baguio City 1978]
[13.Bf4 Bb6 14.Qd3 f6 15.Nbd4 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 fxe5 17.Bxe5 Qg5 18.f4 Qh5 19.Bb3 Nf6 20.Rae1 c5 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.h3 cxd4 23.Qg3 Kh8 24.Qxg4 dxc3+ 25.Kh2 Qxg4 26.hxg4 cxb2-+ 0-1 (40) Beliavsky,A (2560)-Kupreichik,V (2490) Minsk 1976]
13...Nxc5 14.Re1

[14.Be3
A) 14...Ne4 15.h3 *(15.a4 Qd7 16.Bb3 Rad8 17.axb5 axb5 18.Ra6 Ne7 19.h3 Bh5 20.g4 Bxg4 21.hxg4 Qxg4+ 22.Kh2 Qh5+ 23.Kg2 Qg4+ 24.Kh2* ½-½ (24) Beliavsky,A (2555)-Tukmakov,V (2540) Soviet Union 1977 *)* 15...Bh5 16.g4 Bg6 17.Bb3 Qe7 18.Qxd5 Na5 19.Qd1 Rad8 20.Qe2 Nxb3 21.axb3 f5 22.Rxa6 fxg4 23.hxg4 Bf7 24.Nd4 Bd5= ½ (32) Tseshkovsky,V (2550)-Geller,E (2620) Moscow 1976;
B) 14...Nd7 15.Qd3 g6 16.Qxd5 Ndxe5=]
14...Bh5?
[⌓14...Re8
A) 15.Be3!?
A1) 15...Nd7
A1a) 16.Qd3 Nf8 *(16...g6 17.Bg5 Ne7 18.Nd4±)*;
A1b) 16.Qxd5 Ndxe5=;
A2) 15...Ne6 16.Qd3 g6!? *(16...Nf8)* 17.Bh6 Ne7 *(17...Bf5 18.Qd2 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Ne7 20.Nd4±; 17...d4? 18.Qe4!)* 18.Nd4 **Δ** ♕d2 Bf5 19.Nxf5 *(19.Qd2 Nxd4 20.cxd4 Bxc2 21.Qxc2 Nf5 22.Be3 Re6±)* 19...Nxf5 20.Bd2!? *(20.Qh3! Nxh6 21.Qxh6±* Mednis *)* 20...Qh4
A2a) 21.Qxd5? Rad8 22.Qc6 Ne7-+;
A2b) 21.Qf3 Ng5!? 22.Qxd5 *(22.Qf4! Qxf4 23.Bxf4 Ne6 24.Bd2 c5∞)* 22...Rad8 23.Bxg5 Qxg5 24.Qc6 Re6 25.Qxc7 Rd2→ Larsen;
A2c) 21.Qf1!? Nc5 22.g3 *(22.Bxf5?)* 22...Qc4 23.Qg2 *(23.Qxc4 dxc4∓* **Δ** ♘d3*; ⌓23.b3 Qxf1+ 24.Kxf1=)* 23...Nd3 24.Bxd3 Qxd3 0-1 Fischer,R-Larsen,B/Santa Monica 1966/ (30);
B) 15.Bf4
B1) 15...Bh5 Keres 16.Bg3 Ne6 *(≤16...Bg6 17.Nd4± Qd7 18.f3 Rac8 19.Rc1 Ne6 20.Bf2 Ne7 21.b4 Bxc2 22.Qxc2 Ng6 23.Nb3 Nef4 24.Nc5±* ½ (69) Karpov,A (2690)-Smyslov,V (2595) Leningrad 1977 *)* 17.Qd2!? Ne7 *(17...Bxf3? 18.gxf3* ♙f4≌» *)*
B1a) ≤18.Nd4 c5 19.Nxe6 *(19.Nf5 Nxf5 20.Bxf5 Bg6∓)* 19...fxe6∓ Karpov;
B1b) 18.Nh4! d4 19.Be4 *(19.f4 dxc3 20.Qxc3 Qd4+∓)* 19...c6 20.Qc2 *(20.Bf3±)* 20...Bg6 21.Rad1 Qb6 22.f4 d3+ *(22...dxc3+ 23.Bf2 Bxe4 24.Rxe4±)* 23.Qf2 Qxf2+ 24.Kxf2 Bxe4 25.Rxe4 Nc5 *(25...Rad8 26.Re3 Nc5 27.b4)* 26.Rd4 *(26.Re3 Nd5)* 26...Rad8 27.Kf3 *(≤27.b4 Rxd4 28.cxd4 Ne4+ 29.Kf3 Nc3⇄)* 27...h6 ♙g5 28.Bf2!?= ½ (63) Karpov, A (2690)-Smyslov,V (2595) Tilburg 1977;
B2) 15...d4!? 16.h3 Bh5 17.cxd4 *(17.b4 Ne6 18.Be4 Qd7 19.Bg3 Rad8 20.Qd3 Bg6 21.Bh4 Ne7 22.Rad1 c5 23.Bxg6 hxg6 24.bxc5 Nxc5 25.Qxd4 Qc7=* ½ (32) Balashov,Y (2565)-Beliavsky,A (2555) Leningrad 1977 *)* 17...Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Nxd4 19.Qc3 Nxc2 20.Qxc2 Ne6 21.Rad1 Qe7 22.Be3 Red8 23.f4 g6 24.f5 gxf5 25.Qxf5± 0-1 (39) Karpov,A (2690)-Beliavsky,A (2555) Leningrad 1977]

[14...Qd7? 15.Be3 Ne6 16.Bxh7+]
[14...d4 15.h3 Bh5 16.cxd4 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Nxd4 18.Qc3 Qd5 19.Be3 Nxc2 20.Qxc2 Nd3 21.Red1 Rfd8 22.Qxc7 Qxe5 23.Qxe5 Nxe5 24.b3 f6 25.Bb6 Rxd1+ 26.Rxd1 Rc8 27.Rd2 h5 28.Be3 Kf7 29.f4 ½-½ (29) Karpov,A (2725)-Kortschnoj,V (2665) Baguio City 1978]
15.Bg5!
[15.Bxh7+? Kxh7 16.Ng5+ Qxg5!-+]
[15.h3 Re8 16.Bf4 Ne6 17.Bd2 Nc5 18.Bf4 Ne6 19.Bd2 ½-½ (19) Karpov,A (2725)-Kortschnoj,V (2665) Baguio City 1978]
15...Bxf3
[15...Qd7 16.Be3 Ne6 17.Bxh7+! Kxh7 18.Ng5+ Kg6 19.Qd3+ f5 20.exf6+ Kxf6 21.Nh7+ Kf7 *(21...Ke7 22.Bc5++-)* 22.Qf5++-]
[15...Qxg5 16.Bxh7+ Kh8 *(16...Kxh7? 17.Nxg5+)* 17.Nxg5 Bxd1 18.Raxd1 g6 19.Rxd5 Na4 20.b3! Nb6 21.Rc5±]
[15...f6 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Bh6 Rf7 *(17...Re8 18.Rxe8+)* 18.b4!±]
16.Qxf3 Qxg5 17.Qxd5 Nd7 18.Qxc6?
[18.h4! Qxh4 *(18...Qh5 19.Qxc6 Nxe5 20.Qd5 Rfe8 21.f4 Rad8 22.Rxe5!+-)* 19.Qxd7 Δ20.Dc7]
[18.Qxd7 Nxe5 19.Qd5]
18...Nxe5 19.Qe4?!
[⌓19.Qd5 Rae8 20.Re3±]
19...Ng6 20.g3 f5
[⌓20...Rfd8 21.h4 Qf6 22.h5 Nf8]
21.Qe6+ Kh8 22.Rad1 Rf6 23.Qe3?
[23.Qd7! Nh4 *(23...f4 24.Rd5)* 24.Re8+ Rf8 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.f4!+-]
23...f4 24.Qe4 Raf8 25.Rd5 Qh6 26.g4 f3!⇄ Time 0-1 Bronstein,D-Flohr,S/ Moscow 1944/ (35)

12...Bb6 13.Nfd4
[13.Nbd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Bd7 15.Qh5 g6 16.Qh6 f6 17.e6 Bxd4 18.exd7 Bb6 19.Be3 Qxd7 20.Bxb6 cxb6 21.Rad1 Qc6 22.Bb3 Rad8 23.Rfe1 Kh8 24.Bxd5 1-0 (24) Pichot,A (2625)-Bologan,V (2574) Warsaw 2021]
13...Ne7 14.Nxf5 Nxf5 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qg4 Qd7 17.Qxe4 Rae8 18.Bf4 f6 19.Rae1 fxe5 20.Bxe5 Nh6 21.Nd4 ½-½ (21) Esipenko,A (2678)-Dubov,D (2702) Cheboksary 2022

12...Bxf2+ 13.Rxf2 Nxf2 14.Kxf2 Bxc2 15.Qxc2 f6 16.e6
[16.Qf5 Nxe5 17.Be3 Re8 18.Rd1 c6 19.Bc5 Nc4 20.Qb1 Qc7 21.Nbd2 Na5 22.Qd3 Nb7 23.Be3 Re7 24.Qd4 Rae8∓ 0-1 (67) Ljubojevic,L (2600)-Piket,J (2605) Monte Carlo 1994]
16...Qd6 17.Be3 Qxe6 18.Nbd4 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Qe5 20.Nf3 Qh5 21.a4 c6 22.b4 Rfe8 23.Qd3 Rad8 24.h3 Re4 25.axb5 axb5 26.Bd4 Rde8 27.Ra2 Qf5 28.Qc2 h5 29.Kg1 g5 30.Qf2 R4e6 ½-½ (30) Leko,P (2545)-Piket,J (2660) Dortmund 1994

[29] **13.Qe2** Belov 13...Re8! 14.Nxc5 Nxc5 15.Bxg6 hxg6 16.Bg5 Qd7 17.Rad1 Ne6 18.Qd2 Nxg5 19.Qxg5 Qe7! 20.Qxe7 Nxe7 21.Rfe1 c5 22.Ng5= 0-1 (51) Ljubojevic,L (2625)-Timman,J (2630) Hilversum 1987 22...a5 23.g4 b4 24.Kg2 Rab8= 0-1 (51) Ljubojevic,L (2625)-Timman,J (2630) Hilversum 1987

13.Bf4 Bb6 14.a4

[14.Nfd4

A) 14...Ne7!? 15.f3 c5 16.fxe4 *(16.Ne2 c4+ 17.Nbd4 Nc5∓)* 16...cxd4 17.cxd4 Bxe4 18.Bxe4 dxe4∓;

B) 14...Nxd4 15.cxd4 f6 *(15...Qh4!?)* 16.Rc1 *(16.f3 fxe5 17.Bxe5 Qg5 18.Kh1 Nd6⇄)* 16...Qe7 17.Bxe4! Bxe4

B1) 18.exf6 Rxf6! *(18...Qxf6? 19.Bxc7)* 19.Bg5 Rg6 20.h4 *(20.Bxe7?? Rxg2+ 21.Kh1 Rxf2+ 22.Kg1 Rg2+ 23.Kh1 Rg3+-+)* 20...h6 *(20...Rxg5 21.hxg5 Qxg5 22.f3)* 21.Bxe7 Rxg2+ 22.Kh1 Rxf2+ 23.Kg1 Rg2+=;

B2) 18.Nc5± fxe5 19.Bxe5 Rf7 20.Qg4 Bf5 21.Qg3 c6 22.Rfe1 Re8 23.Re3 Bxc5?! *(⌓23...Qa7 24.Bd6 Rxe3 25.Qxe3 Qa8 26.Re1 h6± 27.Nxa6 Bxd4 28.Qxd4 Qxa6 29.Re8+ Kh7)* 24.Rxc5± ½-½ Popovic,P (2545)-Skembris,S (2470)/Bar 1997/ (50)]

14...Qd7 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Rxa8 17.Nfd4 b4

[17...Nd8!?]

18.Bd3 bxc3 19.Bb5 Nxf2! 20.Rxf2 Nxd4! 21.Bxd7 Nxb3 22.bxc3 Ra1 23.Qxa1 Nxa1 24.Bc6 Be4= ½-½ Short,N-Timman,J/Tilburg/1988/ (41) Ruy Lopez Open Variation-11.Bc2 Bf5 12.Nb3 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

13.a4 Bb6 14.Nbd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Qd7

[15...c5? 16.Nc6!

A) 16...Qd7 Belov 17.Qxd5 Qxd5 18.Ne7+ Kh8 19.Nxd5 Bd8□ *(19...Ba7 20.Ne7+-)* 20.axb5+-;

B) 16...Nxc3 17.Nxd8 *(17.bxc3?! Belov Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Qd7)* 17...Nxd1 18.Bxg6 Raxd8 19.Bf5 Nxf2□ 20.Kxf2 c4+ 21.Kg3± g6 22.Bg4 Bc7 23.Bf4 Rfe8?! *(⌓23...b4± Belov)* 24.axb5 axb5 25.Ra7 Bb8 *(25...Bxe5 Belov 26.Bxe5 Rxe5 27.Rfxf7+-)* 26.Rb7 g5?! 27.Bxg5 Bxe5+ 28.Kh3 Rb8 29.Rbxf7+- Bxb2 *(29...Bg7 Belov)* 30.Bh6! b4 31.Be6! 1-0 Timman,J-Geller,E/Moscow 1981 Rxe6 32.Rf8++-]

16.Be3 Nc5 17.a5 Ba7 18.f4 Bxc2 19.Nxc2 f6 20.exf6 Rxf6 21.Kh1 c6 22.Bd4 Rf7 23.Nb4= 0-1 (48) Van der Wiel,J (2530)-Kortschnoj,V (2600) Wijk aan Zee 1983

13.e6 f5 14.Nxc5!?

[14.Bxe4? fxe4 15.Nxc5 exf3∓ Loshakov-Abloukhov/corr/1987/0:1 (27)]

14...Nxc5 15.Bg5 Qd6 16.e7 Rfe8 17.Re1 Ne4 18.Bb3± Ablouhov

13.Nbd4 Belov 13...Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Bb6

[14...Bxd4 Belov

A) 15.cxd4!? c5 16.f3 cxd4 17.Qxd4 *(17.fxe4 Qb6 18.Kh1 dxe4 19.Re1 e3 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.b3 Rad8 22.Qf3 f6 23.Bxe3 fxe5 24.Qg3 dxe3 25.Rxe3= 0-1 (40) Nasuta,G (2500)-Mastrovasilis,D (2597) Polanica Zdroj 2022)* 17...Rc8 18.Bb3 Nc5 19.Be3 Bd3 20.Rfd1 Nxb3 21.axb3 Bc2

22.Rdc1 Bxb3 23.Rxa6 Rxc1+ 24.Bxc1 Qc8 25.Ra1 Qc4 26.Be3± ½ (108) Dominguez Perez,L (2760)-Caruana,F (2800) Saint Louis 2021;
B) 15.Qxd4 c5 16.Qd1 h6 17.f3 Ng5 18.Be3 Rc8 19.Qd2± Short,N-Timman,J/San Lorenzo de El Escorial (m/12)/1993/1:0 (46)]

15.Be3 Qd7

[15...Re8?! 16.a4 Qd7 17.axb5 axb5 18.Rxa8 Rxa8 19.Bd3 c6 20.f4 Re8 *(20...Ba7 21.Kh1 f5 22.exf6±)* 21.Kh1 f6?? *(21...Bxd4 22.Bxd4 Bf5 23.Qe2±; 21...f5? 22.Nxf5+-)* 22.e6 Rxe6 23.f5! *(23.Nxe6 Bxe3⩱)* 23...Bxf5 24.Nxf5 Bxe3 25.Nxe3 Nxc3 26.Qg4 *(26.bxc3 Rxe3±)* 26...Ne4 27.Bxe4 dxe4 28.Rxf6 1-0 Polgar,S (2410)-Van der Sterren,P (2515)/Wijk aan Zee 1990/ (33)]

[15...c5? 16.Nc6 Qd7 17.Qxd5±]

[15...Qe8!? 16.f4 f6]

13.Nxc5 Nxc5 14.Nd4 Nxe5 15.Re1 Ned3 16.Re3 Nxc1 17.Nc6 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Qd6 19.Ne7+ Kh8 20.Rxc1 g6 21.Rd1 c6-+ 0-1 (46) Kosteniuk,A (2531)-Golod,V (2582) Playchess.com INT 2006

[30] **13...Nxd4** 14.cxd4 Bb6 15.f3! Ng5 16.Bxg5! Qxg5 17.f4± Kostro,J-Pioch,Z/ Polska/1973/1:0/40

[31] **14.Nxd4** Qd7

[14...Nxe5 15.f4 c5 16.Nb3 c4 17.Nd4 Nd3 18.f5 Nef2 19.Qf3 Qd7 20.Rxf2 Nxf2 21.Kxf2 h6 22.Qg3 Bh7 23.Bxh6 f6 24.Ne6 Rf7 25.Rd1 Kh8 26.Rxd5 1-0 (26) Vokhidov,S (2552)-Raja,R (2491) Chess.com INT 2022]

15.Nxc6

[15.f4 Nxd4 16.cxd4 f6 *(16...f5!?± 17.Be3 Bf7 18.Rc1 Be6 19.Bd3 c6 20.Rc2 Rac8 21.b4 Ra8 22.Qc1 Rfc8 23.Qa3 Kh8 24.Rfc1± 0-1 (63) Popovic, P (2535)-Ernst,T (2570) Tilburg 1992)* 17.Be3

A) 17...fxe5?! 18.fxe5 *(18.dxe5! x♕d7)* 18...Rxf1+ 19.Qxf1 Rf8 20.Qe2 *(20.Qe1!?)* 20...Qe6 21.Rf1 *(21.Rc1! c6 22.Bd3 Be8=)* 21...Rxf1+ ½-½ Leko,P (2545)-Kortschnoj,V (2615)/Leon 1994/;

B) 17...Rad8 '!' 18.Qe2 Kh8 19.Rac1 c6 20.Bd3 Rc8 21.Rc2 Bf5 22.Rfc1= Klovan-Dorfman, UdSSR 1981.]

[15.a4?! Nxe5

A) 16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Rxa8 18.f4 Nc6 *(18...c5 19.fxe5 cxd4 20.cxd4 = / ±)* 19.Nxb5 = / ±;

B) 16.f4 Nc6 *(16...c5 17.fxe5 cxd4 18.Qxd4? ⩲* 18.cxd4 ! *Ng3!)* 17.Nxc6 Qxc6 18.f5 Qb6+?! *(18...Qc5+! 19.Qd4 Bh5 20.Bf4 Qc6 21.Bb3 Rfd8∓)* 19.Qd4 *(19.Kh1? Nf2+ 20.Rxf2 Qxf2 21.fxg6 Rae8-+)* 19...Qxd4+ 20.cxd4 Bh5 21.Bf4 c6 **Δ** ...♙g4, g6 22.h3 f6 23.Rfc1 Rfd8 *(23...Rfc8 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.axb5 cxb5 26.Rxc8+ Rxc8 27.Rxa6 Rd8 28.Ra7 Rxd4? 29.Ra8+ Kf7 30.g4+-)* 24.axb5 *(24.Bb3 Be8)* 24...cxb5 *(24...axb5 25.Rxa8 Rxa8 26.Bxe4 dxe4 27.Rxc6)* 25.Bb3 Bf7 26.Rc7± 1-0 (42) Polgar,J (2550)-Hellers, F (2525) Wijk aan Zee 1990]

15...Qxc6 16.Be3 Rfe8 17.f3 '?'
[17.f4 '?' Nxc3 '!' 18.bxc3 Qxc3 19.f5 *(19.Bd4 Qxc2 20.Qxc2 Bxc2 21.Rfc1 Bd3 22.Rxc7 Rec8 23.Rac1 Bc4 24.Rxc8+ Rxc8∓ ½ (45) Popovic,P (2535)-Ernst,T (2570) Tilburg 1992)* 19...Qxe3+ 20.Kh1 Rxe5 21.fxg6 hxg6∓ Kortschnoj,V-Karl,H /SWZ-ch/1982/]
17...Nxc3 18.Qd2 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Rxe5 20.Rae1 Ne2+ 21.Rxe2 Qxc2 22.Rxc2 Rxe3∓ 23.Rxc7 g6 24.Kf2 Rae8∓ ½- (53) ½ (53) Speelman,J (2615)-Timman,J (2635) London 1989

[32] **15.Be3**
[15.f4 f5 16.a4 Nb4 17.axb5 Qb8 18.Nc5 Nxc5 19.dxc5 Bh5 20.Qd2 Qxb5 21.Qc3 d4∓ Kapengut,A-Sideif Sade,F/URS/1980/]
[15.Bd3
A) 15...a4? 16.Bxb5! axb3 *(16...Nb4 17.Nd2 Nxd2 18.Bxd2 Nc2 19.Rc1 Nxd4 20.Bg5 Qxg5 21.Qxd4 Be4 22.g3 Qh5 23.f4 Rfb8 24.Bc6 Ra5 25.Rf2± 1-0 (47) Tseshkovsky,V (2595)-Tukmakov,V (2560) Tashkent 1980)* 17.Bxc6 Ra6 18.f3 Rxc6 19.fxe4 bxa2 20.Rxa2 Bxe4 21.b3 Qb8 22.Ba3 Qa7 23.Rff2 Ra8 24.Qd2 Qb8 25.Bc5 Rxa2 ½-½ (25) Ljubojevic,L (2645)-Tal,M (2620) Niksic 1983;
B) 15...Qb8 16.Bf4
B1) 16...Nb4?! 17.Nc1! Qb6 18.Bb1 f6 19.exf6 Qxf6 20.Ne2± *(20.Bxc7? Nxf2)* 20...a4?! *(⌓20...c6)* 21.a3 Nc6?! *(21...Na6 22.Ba2 c6 23.Rc1±)* 22.Ba2 *(22.Bxc7? Nxf2 23.Qe1 Bxb1 24.Rxb1 Qe7!=)* 22...Rad8 23.Rc1!+- 1-0 Tseshkovsky,V (2595)-Sideif Sade,F (2350)/Tashkent 1980/(32);
B2) 16...a4!? 17.Bxe4 *(17.Nc1 Qb6)* 17...dxe4 *(17...Bxe4 18.Nc5±)* 18.Nc5 Rd8 19.d5
B2a) 19...Qb6!? 20.Be3 *(20.Rc1 Nb4)* 20...Nxe5 21.Ne6 Qd6 22.Nxd8 Rxd8⩲;
B2b) 19...Nb4 20.d6 cxd6 21.exd6 Nd3=;
B3) 16...Qb6 17.Rc1 Nb4 18.Bb1 a4 19.Nc5 Nxc5 20.dxc5 *(20.Rxc5 Bxb1 21.Qxb1 Na6 Δ 22.Rxd5? Qc6 23.Qe4 Rad8-+)* 20...Qe6∓ Analysis by Sideif Sade,F]
15...a4 16.Nc1
[16.Nd2
A) 16...a3 17.Nxe4 axb2 *(17...dxe4 18.bxa3 Na5 19.a4 b4 20.Rb1 Rb8 21.d5 Qe7 22.Qd4 Rfd8 23.Qc5 Qxc5 24.Bxc5 Rxd5 25.Bxb4± 0-1 (56) Anagnostopoulos,D (2459)-Golod,V (2566) ICC INT 2000)* 18.Rb1 Bxe4 19.Rxb2 Qd7
A1) 20.Bxe4 dxe4 21.Rxb5 Nxd4 22.Rb2 *(22.Rc5 Rfd8 23.Bxd4 Qxd4 24.Qxd4 Rxd4 25.Rxc7 h6 26.Rc2 Re8 27.Rc5 Ra8 28.Rc2 ½-½ (28) Polgar,J (2630)-Anand,V (2715) Monte Carlo 1995)* 22...c5∞;
A2) 20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Qxd3

A2a) 21...b4

A2a1) 22.Rc1 Rfb8 23.Qb1 *(23.Rbc2 b3 24.axb3 Nb4 25.Qe2 Nxc2 26.Qxc2 Ra3 27.h3 Raxb3 28.Qxc7 Qxc7 29.Rxc7 R3b7 30.Rc5 Rd7 31.g4* ½-½ (31) Hellers,F (2565)-Wedberg,T (2455) Sweden 1993*)* 23...Rb7 24.h3 Ra4 25.Rc5 h6 26.Qd1 Ra5 27.Qc1 Rxc5 28.Qxc5 Rb6 29.Bd2± ½ (38) Lobron,E (2520)-Kortschnoj,V (2635) Meudon 1984;

A2a2) 22.Bd2 Rfb8 23.Rfb1 Qg4 24.Be3 Rb6 25.h3 Qc8 26.Rc2 b3 27.Rxb3 Nb4∓ ½ (63) Huebner,R (2630)-Kortschnoj,V (2645) Luzern 1982;

A2b) 21...Rfb8

A2b1) 22.Rxb5 Rxb5 23.Qxb5 Nxe5 24.Qb7 Qc6 25.Qxc6 Nxc6 26.Rc1 Ra6=;

A2b2) 22.f4 f5 *(22...Na5? 23.Bc1 Nc4 24.Re2* Δ f5 ±*)* 23.exf6 gxf6 24.f5 b4∞;

A2b3) 22.Rfb1 b4 Very slight advantage to White, many games included.

A2b31) 23.h3 h6 *(23...Rb6 24.Qc2 Rab8 25.Rc1 R8b7 26.Qc5* ½-½ (26) Popovic,P (2515)-Jussupow,A (2570) Sarajevo 1984 *)* 24.Rc1

A2b311) 24...Na5 25.Qb1 Nc4 26.Rxb4 Rxb4 27.Qxb4± Qe8 *(27...Rxa2? 28.Qb8+ Kh7 29.Qb1++-)* 28.Ra1;

A2b312) 24...Rb6 25.Qb1 Rab8 *(25...Ra7 26.Rc5 Na5 27.Rxb4 Nc4 28.Rb3±* 1-0 (44) Popovic,P (2515)-Timman,J (2610) Sarajevo 1984*)* 26.Rc5± /= Nd8 27.Rcc2 Nc6 *(27...Ne6 28.f4)* 28.Qc1 R8b7 *(28...Rc8= 29.Rc5 Nd8 30.Qd1 Nb7 31.Rc1 Na5=)* 29.Rc5± 1-0 (44) Karpov,A (2710)-Jussupow,A (2565) Moscow 1983 Δ♖b2-c2;

A2b32) 23.a3 bxa3 *(23...Rxa3? 24.Qxa3 bxa3 25.Rxb8+ Nd8 26.Ra8+-; 23...f6 24.axb4 fxe5 25.b5 Nxd4 26.Bxd4 exd4 27.Qxd4 Rb6 28.h3* ½-½ (28) Ljubojevic,L (2645)-Timman,J (2605) Jakarta 1983 *)* 24.Rxb8+ Rxb8 *(24...Nxb8? 25.Qxa3)* 25.Rxb8+ Nxb8 26.Qxa3± ½-½ (28) Huebner,R (2620)-Kortschnoj,V (2645) Chicago 1982 Qc6 27.Qe7 *(27.g4 h6 28.f4 Nd7 29.f5 Nb6 30.Bf2±)* 27...Qd7 28.Qa3 ½-½ Huebner,R (2620)-Kortschnoj,V (2645)/ Chicago 1982/;

B) 16...f6

B1) 17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.exf6 *(18.b3 a3 19.Qd2 fxe5 20.d5 Ne7 21.Rad1 Bh5 22.Rc1 Qxd5 23.Qb4 Qd7 24.Bxe4± ½-* (34) ½ (34) Megaranto,S (2524)-Milos,G (2589) Turin 2006 *)* 18...Qxf6 19.d5 Rad8;

B2) 17.f4!? A new and interesting idea. White intends to recapture with the d-pawn on e5, thus trying to control both c5 and d4 with pieces. fxe5 18.dxe5 Nxd2 19.Bxd2 Qd7 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.Qc2 Qe6 22.Rac1 Ra6 23.Qd3

Rb8 24.Kh1 Rb7 25.Rc5 Ne7 26.Rxb5± ½-½ Prandstetter,E (2400)-Haba, P (2435)/Prague 1990/ (40);

B3) 17.exf6 Qxf6 18.Rc1 Rae8 *(18...Qd6 19.f3 Nxd2 20.Qxd2 Na5 21.Bxg6 Qxg6 22.Qc2 Nc4 23.Bf2 Qg5 24.h4 Qf4 25.Rfe1± 1-0 (44) Quesada Perez,Y (2584)-Milos,G (2589) Mendes 2009)* 19.Nxe4 *(19.Bb1 h6 20.Nxe4 Bxe4 21.Bxe4 Rxe4 22.Rc5 Nxd4 ½-½ (22) Matsuura,E (2463)-Milos,G (2598) Sao Paulo 2008)* 19...Bxe4 20.Bxe4 Rxe4 21.Qd3 Kh8 22.f3 Re6 23.Bf2 Qf4 24.Rfd1 Rb8 25.Rc5 Nb4 26.Rxb5 c6 27.Qf5 1-0 (27) Carlsen,M (2698)-Fressinet,L (2640) Cap d'Agde 2006;

B4) 17.Rc1 fxe5 18.Nxe4 *(18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.Rxc6 exd4∓)* 18...dxe4 19.d5 Ne7

B4a) 20.Bc5 Rf6 *(20...Rf7 21.d6 cxd6 22.Qxd6 Qxd6 23.Bxd6 Nd5 24.Bxa4 bxa4 ½-½ (24) Ivanchuk,V (2710)-Grischuk,A (2732) Rethymno 2003)* 21.Qe2 Rb8 22.Bxe7 Qxe7 23.Bxe4 Bxe4 24.Qxe4 Rf4 25.Qe2 Rd4 26.Rfd1 Qd6= ½ (45) Nepomniachtchi,I (2784)-Ivanchuk,V (2678) chess24.com INT 2020;

B4b) 20.Bg5 Rf7 21.Re1 *(21.Bxe7 Qxe7 22.Re1 Qb4)* 21...Qxd5 22.Qxd5 Nxd5 23.Bxe4 Bxe4 24.Rxe4 Ernst,T-Marin,M /Tallinn/1989/ Rf5 25.Bh4 a3 26.b3 Re8∓ Marin,M Ruy Lopez Open Variation-12.Nb3 Bg6 13.Nfd4 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

16...a3

[16...Nb4 17.Bb1 a3 18.b3 c5 19.dxc5 *(19.Ne2 cxd4 20.Bxd4 Rc8 21.f3 Ng5 22.Bxg6 hxg6 23.Rc1 Ne6 24.Qd2 Nc6 25.Bf2 d4 26.f4 Qd5 27.Nc3 Qc5 28.Ne4 Qd5 ½-½ (28) Romanishin,O (2580)-Jussupow,A (2485) Vilnius 1980)* 19...Nc6 20.Ne2 Qe8 21.f4 d4 22.f5 dxe3 23.Bxe4 Bh5 24.Qd6 Rc8 25.Ng3 Nxe5 26.Nxh5+- 1-0 (43) Tseshkovsky,V (2595)-Geller,E (2565) Vilnius 1980]

17.bxa3

[Lately the theoretical discussion has centered around 17.b3 f6

A) 18.Nd3

A1) 18...fxe5 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Bxe4

A1a) 20...dxe4 The idea is to open a file to exchange heavy pieces. New. The idea is to open a file to exchange heavy pieces. 21.dxe5 Qxd1 *(21...Re8 22.Rc1 Rxe5 23.Qxd8+ Rxd8 24.Rxc7 Red5 25.h3 h5 26.g4 hxg4 27.hxg4± ½ (38) Karjakin,S (2599)-Kaidanov,G (2629) Moscow 2005)* 22.Rfxd1 Rfd8 23.h3 *(23.Rdc1!? Rac8 24.Rc2 Kf7 25.Rac1 Ke6 26.Rc5 Be8∞)* 23...Bf7 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Rc1 Rc8 26.Bc5 Bd5 27.Kf1 *(27.Bxa3 Ra8=)* 27...c6= ½ (32) Ivanchuk,V (2700)-Timman,J (2635) Novgorod 1995;

A1b) 20...Bxe4 21.dxe5± Aseev,K-Korneev,O/Krumbach/1991/;

A2) 18...Re8 19.f3 fxe5 20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.fxe4 Nd7 22.e5 Bxc2 23.Qxc2 Nf8 24.Rf3 Qd7 25.Raf1 Ng6 26.Rc1± 1-0 (59) Aseev,K (2545)-Haba,P (2475) Hohenloh 1994;

A3) 18...b4 19.Qe1 fxe5 20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.dxe5± 46 Chekhov,V-Gorelov,S/Beskidy/1992/0,5/;

B) 18.f3 fxe5!? Perhaps stronger and surely more interesting than 18. - ♘c3. *(18...Nc3 19.Qd2 b4 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.e6 Re8 22.Nd3 Rxe6 23.Nf4* 23.♘xb4 ♘xb4 24. ♕xc3 ♖b8 *Re8 24.Nxg6 Ne7!* Tisdall & Adams*)* 19.fxe4 Rxf1+ 20.Kxf1 *(20.Qxf1 exd4)* 20...exd4 21.Bxd4 dxe4 22.Be3 Or 22.♘e2 ♕f8+ followed by 23. - ♖d8 - + . Qf6+ 23.Kg1 Rd8 24.Qg4 Qc3! 0-1 Solomon,S (2420)-Van der Sterren,P (2475)/Sydney 1991/;

C) 18.exf6 ChessBase: 'Die Aufgabe des zentralen Bauernvorpostens wirkt überraschend. 18...Qxf6 19.Ne2 Nb4! *(19...Qe7 20.Rc1 Nb4 21.Bb1 Rae8 22.Nc3?* It is doubtful that Black should allow the white rook to go to c1. *Nxc3 23.Rxc3 Bxb1 24.Qxb1 c6 25.Bc1 Qe1 26.Re3 Rxe3 27.Bxe3 Qxb1 28.Rxb1 Re8∓* ½ (116) Speelman,J (2615)-Timman,J (2635) London 1989 *)* 20.Bb1

C1) 20...Qe7

C1a) 21.Qe1?! Rfe8 22.Nf4 *(22.Qc1 Nxf2 23.Kxf2 Bxb1* Mit der Drohung 24...Sd3+.*)* 22...Bf7 23.Qc1 c5! 24.dxc5 Qf6 25.Bxe4 Rxe4 26.Ne2? d4 27.Ng3= 0-1 (41) Karpov,A (2690)-Kortschnoj,V (2650) Merano 1981;

C1b) 21.Re1!? Nxf2! 22.Bxf2 Bxb1 23.Rxb1 *(23.Nc3? Qf7 24.Bg3 Bg6∓* xc2,d3/ *25.Rf1 Qd7)* 23...Rxf2!! 24.Kxf2 Rf8+

C1b1) 25.Kg1 Qe3+ 26.Kh1 Nd3 27.Rf1

C1b11) 27...Nf2+? 28.Rxf2 Rxf2 29.Ng3 Rxa2 30.Qg4± Rf2 *(30...Rb2 31.Rf1 Rf2 32.Qc8+ Kf7 33.Qxc7+ Kg6 34.Qb6++-)* 31.Nf5;

C1b12) 27...Rxf1+ 28.Qxf1 Nf2+ 29.Kg1 Ng4+=;

C1b2) 25.Nf4!? Rxf4+ 26.Kg1 Re4⩱ 27.Qd2 *(27.Rxe4? Qxe4∓)* 27...Nd3□ 28.Rf1 *(28.Rxe4? Qxe4 29.Rf1 Qxd4+ 30.Kh1 c5∓)* 28...Rxd4 29.Rf3± ½ (37) Short,N (2695)-Timman,J (2590) Yerevan 1996;

C2) 20...c5 21.f3 Ng5 22.Qd2 Ne6 23.Bxg6 Qxg6 24.dxc5 Nc2 25.Rad1 Rad8 26.Nd4 Nxe3 27.Qxe3 Nxc5 28.Nxb5± 1-0 (39) Huebner,R (2630)-Thipsay,P (2415) Luzern 1982;

C3) 20...Rae8 21.Ng3 Re6 22.Bxe4? *(22.Qc1 Nxg3 23.hxg3 Bxb1 24.Qxb1 Rc6 25.Rc1=)* 22...dxe4 23.Qd2 Nd3∓ Liberzon,V-Stean,M / Beersheeba 1982]

[17.Rb1 f6 18.f3 fxe5 19.fxe4 Rxf1+ 20.Qxf1 exd4 21.Bd2 dxe4 *(21...Ne5 22.Bf4 Nc4 23.b3 Nb2 24.Nd3 dxe4 25.Nxb2 axb2 26.Rxb2 Qf6=* ½ (50) Unzicker,W (2455)-Kortschnoj,V (2635) Beersheba 1984 *)* 22.Qxb5 Qd6∓]

17...Rxa3 18.Nd3

[18.Bb3 Nc3 19.Qd2 b4 20.Nd3 Bxd3 *(20...Nxa2 21.Nc5 Rxb3 22.Nxb3 Nc3 23.Nc5 h6 24.f3 Qe7 25.Rfc1 Rb8 26.Re1± ½* (42) Ljubojevic,L (2635)-Timman,J (2610) Bugojno 1984 *)* 21.Qxd3

A) 21...Na5 22.Bc2 Qh4 23.Bc1 Rxa2 24.Rxa2 Nxa2 25.Bg5 Qh5 *(25...Qe4 26.Qd2 Nc4 27.Qd1 Nc3 28.Bxe4 Nxd1 29.Bxd5 Nb6=* ½ (69) Hellers,F (2490)-Wedberg,T (2510) Malmo 1988 *)* 26.Be7 Rb8 27.Qa6 Nc4 28.Qxa2 Nd2 29.Bxh7+ Qxh7 30.Qxd2+- 1-0 (43) Short,N (2630)-Jussupow,A (2620) Belfort 1988;

B) 21...Qa8! 22.Bd2∓ Nunn,J-Marin,V / Thessaloniki ol 1988]

18...Nc3 19.Qd2 Na5 20.Bb3 Nxa2 21.Nc5 Nxb3 22.Nxb3 Qa8 23.Nc5 Nc3 24.Qb2 b4 25.Bd2 Qc6 ½-½ (25) Hickl,J (2500)-Van der Sterren,P (2515) Munich 1990 ½-½ Hickl,J (2500)-Van der Sterren,P (2515)/Munich 1990/

[33] **15.a4** b4 16.Rd1 Rad8 17.Nbd2 bxc3 18.bxc3 Nxe5 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Nxe5 Qxe5 21.f3 f5 22.fxe4 fxe4 23.Rxd8 Rxd8∓ ½ (38) Warmerdam,M (2501)-Ernst,S (2553) Amstelveen 2019

[34] **11.Qe2?!** Bf5

[11...Nxf2? 12.Rxf2 f6

A) 13.exf6 Qxf6 14.Nf1 *(14.Kh1 Bxf2 15.Qxf2±* Euwe *)* 14...Bxf2+ 15.Qxf2 Ne5 16.Be3 Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 Qxf3 18.gxf3 Rxf3 19.Bc5± Ljubojevic,L-Kortschnoj,V/Reykjavik 1987;

B) 13.Ne4 Bxf2+ 14.Nxf2 fxe5 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Qxe5 Qd7 17.Bf4 c6 18.Qd6 Rae8 19.Nd3 Qa7+ 20.Kh1 Bf5 21.Ne5 Rf6 22.Nxc6 Qf2 23.Ne7+ Kh8 24.Bg3 Qxb2 0-1 Bockman,K-Isaacson,D/Munich 1958/]

12.Nxe4

[12.Qd1 Re8 13.Nxe4 Bxe4 14.Bf4 Na5 15.Ng5 Nxb3 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Qxd8 Rexd8 18.axb3 a5 19.Rfd1 Kf8 20.Kf1 Ke7 21.Re1 Ke6 22.Rxe4± ½ (45) Motylev,A (2676)-Caruana,F (2646) Wijk aan Zee 2009]

12...dxe4 13.Ng5 Nxe5=

[13...Qd3 14.Qxd3 exd3 15.Be3 Be7 16.Bd5 Nxe5 17.Bxa8 Rxa8 18.Rfe1 Nc4 19.Nf3 Nxb2 20.Bc1 Ba3 21.Nd2 Nc4 22.Nxc4 Bxc1 23.Rexc1 bxc4∓ ½ (88) Kovalev,V (2637)-Sarana,A (2640) Krasnaya Polyana 2021]

14.Nxe4 Bg4

[14...Qd3 15.Qxd3 Nxd3 16.Nxc5 Nxc5 17.Be3 Nxb3 18.axb3 a5 19.Rfd1 Be6 20.b4 axb4 21.Rxa8 Rxa8 22.cxb4 Bb3 23.Rc1= ½ (31) Berbatov,K (2471)-Kolev,A (2580) Albena 2010]

15.Qd2

[15.Qe1 Nd3]

[15.Qc2 Bb6 16.Bg5 Qd3 *(16...Qd7∞ 17.Kh1 Rae8 18.f3 Bf5 19.Rad1 Qc6 20.Rfe1 Nc4 21.Bxc4 bxc4 22.Re2 Re6 23.Rde1 Rfe8 24.h3 Qd5∓* ½ (40) Zelcic,R (2535)-Bosiocic,M (2553) Opatija 2015 *)* 17.Bf4=]

15...Bb6 16.Qg5?

[16.Qf4 Qe7 17.Bc2 Bh5 18.Re1 Bg6=]

16...Qxg5 17.Bxg5?

[17.Nxg5]

17...Nd3-+ 18.Bd5 Rae8 19.b3 Be2 20.Rfb1 Rxe4 21.Bxe4 Nxf2 22.Bf3 Bxf3 23.gxf3 Nh3+ 24.Kg2 Nxg5 0-1 Bessenay,M (2400)-Young,N (2200)/Nice 1974/ (38)

11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Bxe6 Qxd1 13.Rxd1 fxe6 14.Nd4 Nxe5 15.Be3 Nc4 16.b3 Nxe3 17.fxe3 e5 18.Nc2 Rad8 19.b4 Bb6 20.a4 Rd3 21.axb5 axb5 22.Rf1 Rxc3 23.Rxf8+ Kxf8-+ 0-1 (34) Priasmoro,N (2502)-Mikhalevski,V (2565) Chess.com INT 2020

[35] **11...Nxd2** 12.Bxd2

[12.Qxd2 Qd7 13.a4 Ne7 14.b4 Ba7 15.Nd4 Bxd4 16.Qxd4 h6 17.Be3 Bf5 18.Bb3 Rfd8 19.Qd2 Be6 20.Bd4 Nc6 21.a5 Re8 22.Rae1± 1-0 (38) Perez Candelario,M (2524)-Le Roux,J (2520) Navalmoral 2010]

12...Qd7 13.Bg5 Rfe8 14.Qd3 g6 15.Rad1 Be7 16.Qe3 Bg4 17.Bf4 Bf8 18.Bb3 Ne7 19.h3 Nf5 20.Qd3 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 c6 22.g4± 1-0 (57) Zilka,S (2580)-Sahidi,S (2436) Slovakia 2021

[36] **12.exf6** Nxf6 13.Nb3 Bb6 14.Nfd4

[14.Re1 Qd6 15.Be3 Bxe3 16.Rxe3 Rae8 17.h3 Bf7 18.Qd2 b4 19.Rae1 Rxe3 20.Rxe3 bxc3 21.Qxc3 Rb8 22.Re2± ½ (71) Ivanchuk,V (2700)-Piket,J (2670) Monte Carlo 1995]

14...Nxd4 15.cxd4 Qd6 16.Qd3 Rae8 17.Qg3 Qd7 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.dxc5 d4 20.Bg5 Bc4 21.Bxf6 Rxf6 22.Bd3 Qd5 23.b4 Re5 24.Rfd1 h6 25.h4 Bxd3 26.Rxd3 ½ (41) Apicella,M (2495)-Flear,G (2515) Clichy 1993 26...Re2∓

[37] **12...Ba7!?** ⌓ Szabo Ftacnik,L: '⌓ Szabo'

[38] **13.a4** b4 14.a5 Ba7 15.Nbd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Bxd4 17.cxd4 f4 18.f3 Ng3 19.Rf2 Qh4 20.Ra4 Rae8 21.Rxb4 Bc8 22.Bb3 c6 23.Rc2 Bd7 24.Rb7

[⌓24.Qe1 (Δ 25.♗xf4) Ftacnik,L: '(Δ 25.♗xf4)' g5 25.Rb7 Rf7 26.Ba4+-]

24...Re7 25.Bxf4 Rxf4 26.hxg3 Qxg3 27.Rxd7 Rxd7 28.Rxc6 Rd8!

[28...Rh4? 29.Rc8+ Kf7 30.e6+ Kxe6 31.Qe2++-]

29.e6 Rh4 30.Qe2 Rh2 31.Qf2??

[31.e7 Re8 32.Bxd5+ Kh8 33.Rc8 Rxg2+ 34.Qxg2 Qe1+ 35.Qf1! *(35.Kh2? Rxc8!)* 35...Qg3+ *(35...Qxf1+? 36.Kxf1 Rxc8 37.Bc6!)* 36.Qg2! Qe1+=]

31...Rh1+ 0-1 Boleslavsky,I-Szabo,L/Groningen 1946/

[39] **14...Qd7** Knaak 15.f3 Nc5 16.Kh1 Nb7

[16...Rae8 17.b4 Na4 18.Qd3 c5 19.Nxe6 Rxe6 20.Bxa4 bxa4 21.bxc5± Kieninger-Bogoljubov/Krakov/1941/]

17.Be3

[17.a4 Bxd4 18.cxd4 c5 19.dxc5 Nxc5 20.axb5 Qxb5 21.Be3± Unzicker,W-Addison/Maribor/1967/]

17...c5 18.Nxe6 Qxe6 19.a4 Na5

[19...Qxe5 20.Re1 Bc7 21.Bg1 Qd6 22.axb5 axb5 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.Bxf5±]
20.Bf2
[20.Re1 Nc4±]
20...Kh8
[20...Qxe5 21.Re1 Qd6 22.axb5 axb5 23.b4 cxb4 24.Bxb6 Qxb6 25.Qxd5+ Kh8 26.cxb4+-]
21.Re1 Ra7 22.Qe2 b4 23.cxb4 cxb4 24.Bxb6 Qxb6 25.Rad1± 1-0 Stein,L-Keres,P/Moscow 1967/ (40)

15.Qxd4! This by E:Bogoljubow introduced move is more popular for White today. White can play in a more easy way for an advantage. ' ⌓!' This by E:Bogoljubow introduced move is more popular for White today. White can play in a more easy way for an advantage. The interesting question is: why did Ivan Sokolov choose this variation?

[15.cxd4 f4 16.f3 *(* In the beginning of 20th century White tested Ftacnik,L: 'In the beginning of 20th century White tested' *16.Re1* and after Ftacnik,L: 'and after' *Qh4* decided to sacrifice an exchange, but the compensation wasn't sufficient and he eventually lost. Ftacnik,L: 'decided to sacrifice an exchange, but the compensation wasn't sufficient and he eventually lost.' *17.Rxe4 dxe4 18.Bxe4 Rad8∓* 0-1 Suechting,H-Johner,P/Karlsbad 1911/HCL (30)*)* 16...Ng3! Mikhalevski,V: 'A very brave piece sacrifice and the idea behind 11...f5.' Ftacnik,L: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'A very brave piece sacrifice and the idea behind 11...f5."

A) 17.Re1 Qh4 was tested in the beginning of 20th century in the games of well-known players such as Teichmann, Vidmar and Tarrasch. 18.Qd2 Nf5 19.Bxf5 Rxf5 20.Qf2 Qh6 21.Kh1 g5 22.g4 fxg3 23.Qxg3 Kh8 24.Bd2 c5 0-1 (39) Izbinsky,S-Viakhirev,A/St Petersburg 1909/ (48)

A1) 25.Rac1 c4 26.a4 Raf8 27.axb5 axb5 28.Ra1 Qh5 29.Rg1 h6 30.f4 Rg8 31.fxg5 Rf3 32.Qg2 Bh3 33.Qe2 Bf5 34.gxh6 Rxg1+ *(34...Rfg3! 35.Qxh5 Be4+ 36.Rg2 Rxg2 37.h4 Rg1+ 38.Kh2 R8g2+ 39.Kh3 Rg3+ 40.Kh2 R1g2+ 41.Kh1 Rf2+ 42.Qf3 Bxf3#* [Dus Chotimirsky]*; 34...Rf1! 35.Qxf1 Be4+ 36.Rg2 Bxg2+ 37.Qxg2 Rxg2 38.Kxg2 Qe2+-+* [Alekhine]*)* 35.Rxg1 Be4 36.Rg2 Rg3 37.Qxh5 Rxg2 38.Qf5! Rxd2+ 39.Qxe4 dxe4 0-1 Izbinsky,S-Viakhirev,A/St Petersburg 1909/ (48);

A2) 25.dxc5 d4 26.c6=;

B) 17.Rf2 occuried in the middle of the last century. Ftacnik,L: 'occuried in the middle of the last century.';

C) 17.hxg3 fxg3

C1) 18.Re1!? The position after this move can be reached also after 17.Re1 if white plays hxg3 later on. Ftacnik,L: 'The position after this move can be reached also after 17.Re1 if white plays hxg3 later on.' Qh4 19.Be3 Bg4 20.Kf1 Qh1+ 21.Ke2! *(21.Bg1?? Bxf3-+)* 21...Qxg2+ 22.Kd3 Bxf3 23.Qd2∞ Duras,O-Maroczy,G/Ostend 1906/EXT 2000 (50);

C2) 18.Qd3 Mikhalevski,V: 'The main line. White is ready to meet Qh4 with Qxh7 and thus forces the following play. ' Ftacnik,L: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'The main

line. White is ready to meet Qh4 with Qxh7 and thus forces the following play. '' 18...Bf5 19.Qxf5 Rxf5 20.Bxf5 Qh4 21.Bh3 Qxd4+ 22.Kh1 Qxe5 'Diese Variante trägt den Namen 'Die lange Peitsche'' Mikhalevski,V: Most of the games were played by GMs while black's position was defended by three World Champions, such as Euwe, Botvinnik and Tal! Black has queen and three pawns vs rook and two bishops and everything will depend on how fast white will succeed to coordinate his pieces. At the same time black has to advance his pawns as far as possible.' Ftacnik,L: ' 'Diese Variante trägt den Namen 'Die lange Peitsche'" Ftacnik,L: 'Mikhalevski,V: Most of the games were played by GMs while black's position was defended by three World Champions, such as Euwe, Botvinnik and Tal! Black has queen and three pawns vs rook and two bishops and everything will depend on how fast white will succeed to coordinate his pieces. At the same time black has to advance his pawns as far as possible.'' 23.Bd2 Mikhalevski,V: 'This move was played in all those games. White sacrifices another pawn to finish development as soon as possible. Ftacnik,L: 'Mikhalevski,V: 'This move was played in all those games. White sacrifices another pawn to finish development as soon as possible.' Qxb2 '∞' *(23...c5 24.Rae1 Qxb2 25.Bf4 Qf6 26.Bxg3 d4 27.Re6 Qg5 28.Be5∞* Teschner,R-Honfi,Kar/Monte Carlo/1969/*)* 24.Bf4 d4! Black has to keep the d-pawn. Ftacnik,L: 'Black has to keep the d-pawn.' *(* And here is contribution of another World Champion, this time as white. Ftacnik,L: 'And here is contribution of another World Champion, this time as white.' *24...c5?* Wedberg,T *25.Be6+ Kh8 26.Bxd5±* 'Smyslov,V-Reshevsky, S/URS-USA/1946' *)*

C2a) 25.Bxc7 was also tested a number of times with good results for black. For example see Ftacnik,L: 'was also tested a number of times with good results for black. For example see' d3 26.Be6+ Kh8 27.Bxg3 *(27.Rad1? Re8 28.Bd7 Re2 29.Bxg3 d2 30.f4 h5∓* Tseshkovsky,V-Tal, M/USR-ch/1974 0-1 (43) Ftacnik,L: 'Tseshkovsky,V-Tal,M/USR-ch/1974 0-1(43)/' *)* 27...d2 28.f4 Rd8 29.Rad1 Rd3 30.Rf2 Qb4= Baturinsky,V-Estrin,Y/Fernpartie/1946;

C2b) 25.Rae1 d3 26.Re7? Qf6 27.Re4 c5 28.Bxg3 Rd8∓ 0-1 Jirovsky, P-Pribyl,M/Prague 1995/ (43);

C2c) 25.Bxg3

C2c1) 25...d3?! Ftacnik 26.Rad1 d2 27.Be6+ Kf8 28.Bxc7 Ke7? *(28...Qd4=)* 29.Bd5 Rf8 30.Ba5 Rf5 31.Rxd2+- ½-½ Pelitov,D-Estrin, Y/Albena 1973/ (39) Ftacnik,L: '½-½ Pelitov,D-Estrin,Y/Albena 1973/ (39)';

C2c2) 25...c5! The pawns must be advanced together. Ftacnik,L: 'The pawns must be advanced together.'

C2c21) 26.Be5!? This way White succeeded to temporary stop advance of the black pawns Ftacnik,L: 'This way White succeeded to temporary stop advance of the black pawns in the game Tiviakov-

Sokolov,I/Groningen 1994 which black won after mutual mistakes.' Re8 27.f4 *(27.Rae1* Ftacnik *Qxa2)* 27...Qe2 *(27...c4 28.Rab1* × d4 Ftacnik,L: '× d4' *)* 28.Rae1 0-1 (43) Tiviakov,S (2640)-Sokolov,I (2625) Groningen 1994

C2c211) 28...Qh5? 29.Rc1! d3 *(29...c4? 30.Bxd4±; 29...g5? 30.Rxc5 g4 31.Bxd4!+-)* 30.Rxc5 Qe2 *(30...d2 31.Rd5 Qe2 32.Rg1!±* Ernst: '**Δ** 33.♖d7' Ftacnik,L: ' **±**!'*)* 31.Rg1 Rd8! *(31...d2? 32.Rd5!±* **Δ** 33. ♖d7 *)* 32.Rc7 *(32.Rd5? Rxd5 33.Be6+ Kh8 34.Bxd5 Qh5#)* 32...Kf8 *(32...d2? 33.Be6+ Kf8 34.Bxg7+ Ke8 35.Bf7#)* 33.Bxg7+ *(33.Kh2? d2 34.Be6 Qh5+ 35.Kg3 Qg6+ 36.Bg4 d1Q 37.Rxd1 Rxd1 38.Rc8+ Ke7 39.Rc7+ Ke8 40.Rc8+ Rd8-+; 33.Rxg7?! d2 34.Bg4 d1Q 35.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 36.Kh2 Qd2 37.Bxd1 Qxd1 38.Rxh7∓; 33.Be6? Qh5+* Wedberg *34.Bh3 d2-+)* 33...Ke8

C2c2111) 34.Bc3 Ftacnik d2 35.Bxd2 Rxd2**∓**;

C2c2112) ⌓34.Bf6! d2 35.Bxd8 d1Q 36.Bh4+- Tiviakov: 'White is winning by Kings attack.' But is this judgement correct? Qd6 Now it's not easy to see, how White can win. 37.Rgc1 Qxf4 38.Rc8+ Kf7 39.R8c7+ *(39.R1c7+ Kg6 40.Rg8+ Kh6∓)* 39...Kg8 40.Rc8+=;

C2c2113) 34.Bg4? Qxg4 35.Re1+ Qe2

C2c21131) 36.Bc3! Qxe1+ 37.Bxe1 d2 38.Bxd2 Rxd2 39.a4! *(39.Rxh7 Rxa2∓)* 39...bxa4 40.Rc6 *(40.Rc4* Ftacnik *a3 41.Ra4 a2 42.Kh2∓)* 40...Rd4 41.g3=;

C2c21132) ⌓36.Rcc1!= Tiviakov Kf7 37.Rxe2 dxe2 38.Re1 Kxg7 *(38...Rd1? 39.Bc3+-)* 39.Rxe2;

C2c21133) 36.Rxe2+? dxe2 37.Bc3 Rd1+ 38.Kh2 Rc1!-+ 0-1 Tiviakov,S (2640)-Sokolov,I (2625)/Groningen 1994/ (43) This pin wins.;

C2c212) ⌓28...Qd2!?;

C2c213) 28...Qxa2**∓** Ftacnik,L: '!?' 29.Bd6 *(29.Bxd4 Rxe1 30.Rxe1 Qd2 31.Be6+ Kh8-+; 29.Ra1 Qe2 30.Rfc1 g5 31.Rxc5 g4 32.Bxd4 h6∓)* 29...Re3! 30.Bxc5 Rxh3+ 31.gxh3 Qd5+ 32.Kg1 Qxc5**∓**;

C2c22) 26.Rae1 This idea looks very logical. White brings the rook into play and threatens to penetrate to the 7th rank. Ftacnik,L: 'This idea looks very logical. White brings the rook into play and threatens to penetrate to the 7th rank.' 26...d3

C2c221) More logical looks natural Ftacnik,L: 'More logical looks natural' 27.Re7 but Ftacnik,L: 'but '

C2c2211) 27...d2!? '!'

C2c22111) 28.Be5? Qc1 29.Be6+ Kf8 30.Bd6 Qxf1+ 31.Kh2 Qh1+!! *(31...d1Q? 32.Rf7+ Kg8 33.Rf8#)* 32.Kg3

Qe1+ 33.Kh3 Qxe6+-+;

C2c22112) ⌓28.Be6+ Kh8 29.Rd7 c4 30.Rd1 Qf6∞ 'Marjanovic Δ c3' Maranovic Δ c3 Ftacnik,L: "Marjanovic Δ c3" *(30...c3? 31.Be5 c2 32.Bxb2 cxd1Q+ 33.Kh2 h5 34.Bxg7+ Kh7 35.Bc3+!! Kg6 36.Bf7+ Kf5 37.Rd5++-)*;

C2c2212) 27...Qf6! 28.Rd7 c4! *(28...Rd8? 29.Be5!* 1-0 Beliavsky,A-Ornstein,A/Le Havre 1977/ (44) *Qg5=)* 29.Re1 Rd8 It's interesting that Max Euwe won not less than two games by this move. Ftacnik,L: 'It's interesting that Max Euwe won not less than two games by this move.'

C2c22121) 30.Be5 Qh4 31.Rxg7+ Kf8 32.Re4 Qh6 33.Reg4 d2 34.Rg8+ Ke7 35.Rxd8 *(35.R8g7+ Qxg7-+)* 35...Kxd8 36.Rd4+ Ke8-+ Cortlever-Euwe/Amsterdam/1941;

C2c22122) 30.Be6+ Kh8 31.Bh3 Δ32.♗e5± Ftacnik,L: 'Δ32.♗e5±' Qf8 *(31...Rxd7?? 32.Re8++-; 31...d2 32.Rxd2)* 32.Rc7 d2 33.Rd1 Qe8-+ 0-1 Znosko Borovsky,E-Euwe,M/ Zaanstreek 1946/ (43);

C2c222) 27.Be5!? Qxa2 28.Bd6 Qb2 29.Be6+ Kh8 30.Be5 Qd2 31.f4 c4 32.f5 Rf8 33.Re4 c3 34.Ref4 Rf6 35.R4f2 Qh6+ 36.Kg1 b4∞ ½-½ Boleslavsky,I-Botvinnik,M/Sverdlovsk 1943/HCL (89) Ftacnik,L: '½-½ Boleslavsky,I-Botvinnik,M/Sverdlovsk 1943/ HCL (89)';

C2c223) 27.Be6+?! Probably this move is already an inaccuracy. Ftacnik,L: 'Probably this move is already an inaccuracy.' 27...Kh8 28.Bd5 *(28.Be5 Qc2∞)*

C2c2231) 28...Rd8!? 29.Re7 Qd4! 30.Rfe1 Qxd5! 31.Re8+ Rxe8 *(31...Qg8!?)* 32.Rxe8+ Qg8 33.Rxg8+ Kxg8 34.Be1 Kf7 35.Kg1 Ke6 36.Kf2 Kd5 0-1 Olsar,Z-Motyka,M/Trinec 2004/ (58) and it's very difficult for white to deal with Black's pawn chain on the queenside. Ftacnik,L: 'and it's very difficult for white to deal with Black's pawn chain on the queenside.';

C2c2232) 28...Rf8! I thought it was safer than 28...Rd8 as after doubling rooks along the e-file it's not necessary to lose a tempo for defense. Ftacnik,L: 'I thought it was safer than 28...Rd8 as after doubling rooks along the e-file it's not necessary to lose a tempo for defense.' 29.Bd6 Qd4! It turns out that only this move is new. I believe that after it the game is almost over. Ftacnik,L: 'It turns out that only this move is new. I believe that after it the game is almost over.' *(29...d2 30.Rb1 Qd4 31.Bxf8 Qh4+=* Haese,G-Kegel,OH/CC/1986*)* 30.Bxf8 Qxd5∓ Black already has a clear positional advantage. The pawns supported by queen go forward and White can hardly do much about it. Ftacnik,L: 'Black already has a clear positional advantage. The pawns supported

by queen go forward and White can hardly do much about it.'

C2c22321) Doesn't help Ftacnik,L: 'Doesn't help' 31.Re7 Kg8! 32.Bxg7 d2! *(During the game I considered* Ftacnik,L: 'During the game I considered' *32...c4* ΔQh5 which is also enough for a win. Ftacnik,L: ' ΔQh5 which is also enough for a win.' *)* 33.Rd1 Qc4!;

C2c22322) 31.Bd6 White brings the bishop back into play. Ftacnik,L: 'White brings the bishop back into play.' 31...h6! 32.Bf4 *(*Or Ftacnik,L: 'Or' *32.Re8+ Kh7 33.Rd8 c4)* 32...c4 *(* There was also nothing wrong with materialistic Ftacnik,L: 'There was also nothing wrong with materialistic' *32...Qxa2!?)* 33.Re8+ *(33.Re5 Qd8!)* 33...Kh7 34.Re5 Qd8! 35.g3 c3!? 0-1 Krnan,T (2331)-Mikhalevski,V (2551)/Montreal 2004/ (43)]

15...c5 16.Qd1

[16.Qd3 f4 17.f3 Ng5 18.Qe2 Bf5 19.e6 Qf6 20.Bxf4 Qxe6 21.Qxe6+ Nxe6 22.Bxf5 Rxf5 23.Bg3 Rd8 24.a4 b4 25.Rae1 Kf7= ½ (44) Beliavsky,A (2595)-Garcia,G (2410) Bogota 1979]

16...h6

[16...f4 17.f3 Ng5 18.a4 b4 *(18...bxa4 19.Rxa4 c4 20.b3! Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Rad8 22.Qd4 Qxd4 23.cxd4 Bd7 24.Rb4±* Haag-Estrin/corr/1979*/)* 19.cxb4 c4 *(19...cxb4 20.Qd4)* 20.b3! *(20.Qd4* Ernst *Bf5 21.Bxf5 Rxf5 22.Rd1 Ne6 23.Qxd5 Qb6+ 24.Kf1 Rd8 25.Qxe6+ Qxe6 26.Rxd8+ Kf7 27.Bd2 Rxe5 28.Bc3 Rd5 29.Rd1=* Kroencke,M- Kegel, OH, CC-BdF-Meisterklasse 1987*.)* 20...d4 21.bxc4 Bxc4 22.Bb3 Qd5 23.Bxc4 Qxc4 24.Rb1 Kh8? *(24...Ne6! 25.Qb3 Rfc8)* 25.Qb3 Qe2 26.h4 Nf7 27.Bxf4 1-0/Rantanen-Ornstein/Reykjavik/ 1981/]

17.f3 Ng5 18.Be3 Rc8 19.Qd2

[19.b4? Knaak cxb4 20.cxb4 d4!]

19...a5 20.Rad1 Qe7 21.Bb1 Kh8 22.Rfe1 Rc7 23.Bf2 b4 24.h4?!

[24.Qd3]

[24.Qd3± Knaak f4 25.h4]

24...Nh7 25.Qd3 g5 26.Qa6 Rfc8

[26...gxh4 27.Qd6 Qg7 *(27...h3 28.Bxc5 Qg7 29.Re2±)*

A) 28.Qxe6 Ng5 *(28...Rg8* Ernst *29.g3 hxg3 30.Be3±)* 29.Qxd5? Nh3+ 30.Kf1 Nf4;

B) 28.Bxh4 Knaak Rg8 29.Re2±;

C) 28.Bxh4!]

27.Re2

[27.Qxa5 bxc3 28.Qxc3 *(28.bxc3* Knaak *gxh4∞* × ♕a5 Ftacnik,L: '× ♕a5'*)* 28...gxh4⇄]

[27.Qd6 Qf7]

27...Rc6 28.Qd3

[28.Qxa5 gxh4 29.f4 bxc3 30.bxc3 Rg8⇄]

28...gxh4 29.f4 Rg8
[29...Nf8!? Knaak (Timman)]
[29...Nf8]
30.Qf3 bxc3 31.bxc3 Rb6
[31...Rcc8 Knaak (Timman)]
32.Bc2± 1-0 Short,N (2655)-Timman,J (2635)/El Escorial 1993/ (46) Ruy Lopez Open Variation-9.c3 Bc5 10.Nbd2 0-0 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[40] **13.Qe2** fxe5 14.Nb3 Bxf2+ 15.Qxf2 e4 16.Qe1 Bg4
[16...Qd6 17.Nfd4 Ne5 18.Qg3 Rf6 19.Bg5 Rg6 20.Nc5 Nf3+ 21.gxf3 Qxc5 22.Kh1 Bd7 23.fxe4 dxe4 24.Rg1± ½ (35) Huschenbeth,N (2611)-Shevchenko,K (2652) Germany 2022]
17.Bg5 Qd6 18.Nfd4 Ne5 19.Qg3 Rae8 20.Be3 c5 21.Nxb5 axb5 22.Bxc5 Qf6 23.Bxf8 Rxf8 24.Nd4 Nc4 25.Bb3= 1-0 (37) Van Foreest,J (2714)-Le,Q (2709) Oslo 2022
13.exf6 Bxf2+
[13...Qxf6
A) 14.Nb3? Bxf2+ 15.Kxf2 g5? *(15...Ne5!→)* 16.Qd3!
A1) 16...Qh6 17.Kg1! *(17.Bxg5 Qxh2)*;
A2) 16...Rf7 17.Bxg5!
A2a) ⌓17...Qg7 18.Re1 Bg4 *(18...Bf5 19.Qxd5; 18...Re8 19.Nc5; 18...Ne5 19.Rxe5)* 19.Bh4;
A2b) 17...Qxg5 18.Qxh7+ Kf8 19.Qxf7+! 1-0 Argyris,N (2140)-Bloodworth,K (1860)/Barnstaple 1972/;
B) 14.Qf1! Smyslov-Botvinnik, Moscow 1943 14...b4 15.Ba4 bxc3 16.Bxc6 cxd2 17.Bxd2± Husak,K-Ericson,A,corr-5 WCH 1965]
14.Kxf2 Qxf6 Baburin: Sometimes the material correlation "rook + pawn(-s) vs two minor pieces" arises in a game at an early stage as a direct result of an opening line, and here we have such an example - 11...Nxf2 in the Open Ruy Lopez. My general comment is that such imbalanced positions require particularly energetic play - the price of every move is very high! Postny: 'Materially speaking, the position is about equal. However, if white will manage to consolidate his position, he will be clearly better, thanks to pair of strong bishops. Black's task is to create threats against opponent's king and prevent white's smooth development. ' 15.Nf1
[15.Kg1 is the main alternative. Rae8 *(15...Ne5; 15...Bg4 16.Qe2 Rae8 17.Qd3 Re1+ 18.Nf1 Bxf3 19.Qxh7+ Kf7 20.gxf3 Ne5 21.Kf2 Rxf1+ 22.Kxf1 Qxf3+ 23.Kg1 Qg4+-+* 0-1 (35) Dgebuadze,A (2541)-Slobodjan,R (2536) Bad Woerishofen 1999*)* 16.Qf1 *(16.Nf1 Ne5 17.Be3 Nxf3+ 18.gxf3 Qxf3 19.Qxf3 Rxf3 20.Bf2± Kortchnoi/ECO; 16.h3 Bxh3 17.Nf1 Ne5 18.N1h2 Qb6+ 19.Nd4 Bg4 20.Nxg4 Nxg4 21.Bg5 h5 22.Qd3 Re4 23.b4 Qd6∓* 1-0 (29) Amonatov,F (2610)-Hansen,S (2595) Baku 2016*; 16.Kh1 Bg4 17.Bb3 Qf5 18.a4 Kh8 19.axb5 axb5 20.Bc2 Qh5 21.Qf1 Ne5 22.Bd1 c5 23.b3 c4 24.Ba3 Rf6*

25.bxc4 bxc4 26.Bc5 Nd3 27.Bd4± 1-0 (39) Yakubboev,N (2569)-Sargsyan,S (2486) Chess.com INT 2019 *)*

A) 16...Kh8 17.h3 Bf7 18.Nb3 Bh5 19.Bg5 Qd6 20.Qd3 Bg6 21.Qd1 Rxf3 22.Bxg6 Ref8-+ Kozlov-Estrin/USSR/1973;

B) 16...Bf5 17.Bxf5 Qxf5 18.Nb3 *(18.b3 d4 19.cxd4 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Qc5 21.Bb2 Rxf1+ 22.Rxf1 Re2 23.Rf2 Rxf2 24.Kxf2 Qd5 25.Ke3 Qe5+* 0-1 (25) Ljubojevic,L (2625)-Jussupow,A (2635) Tilburg 1987*)* 18...Qc2 19.h3 h6 20.Kh1 Kh8 21.Qg1 Rf6 22.Bd2 Qxb2 23.Re1 Ref8= 0-1 (31) Ter Sahakyan,S (2563)-Sargsyan,S (2461) Yerevan 2018;

C) 16...g5!? 17.Qd3 Rf7 18.h3 g4 19.hxg4 Bxg4 20.Qxd5 Ne5 21.Bb3 Kh8 22.Nxe5 Rxe5 23.Qxe5 Qxe5 24.Bxf7 Qe3+∞ ½-½ Varga,C-Turzo,A/ Budapest Schneider op (04)/1995/ (35)]

[15.a4?! This move looks quite optimistic to me, white should better secure his monarch and develop his light pieces as soon as possible. Ne5 *(15...b4 16.Qe2 a5 17.Kg1 Rae8∞ 18.Qb5 Ne5 19.Qxa5 c6 20.Qc5 Bg4 21.Qf2 bxc3 22.bxc3 Nxf3+ 23.Nxf3 Bxf3 24.gxf3 Qxc3∞* 1-0 Asfora,M (2280)-Tilmatine,A (2245)/Algarve 1995/ (46)*)* 16.Kg1 Bg4? Black did not manage to realize the point of 15.a4. *(*Much stronger is *16...Rae8↑* avoiding the exchange of rooks. Now bad for white is *17.axb5 axb5 18.Nxe5? Qf2+ 19.Kh1 Bh3!! 20.gxh3 Rxe5-+)* 17.axb5 axb5 18.Rxa8 The exchange of rooks reduces black's attacking potential. Rxa8 19.Ne4! Small tactical trick helps white a lot to consolidate the position. Qb6+ *(19...Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 Qb6+ 21.Nf2 Be6 22.Qd3 g6 23.Be3±)*

A) Even stronger was 20.Kh1! Rd8 21.Neg5 h6 22.Bh7+ Kf8 *(22...Kh8? 23.Nxe5 Bxd1 24.Nef7#)* 23.Bf4 with strong initiative.;

B) 20.Nf2 c6? Missing the combination, that now follows... *(* Better was *20...Bxf3 21.gxf3 Qe6* , though after *22.f4 Nc4 23.f5* white has the initiative.*)* 21.Bxh7+! Kxh7 22.Qc2+ Unpinning the ♘f3 with tempo. Ng6 23.Ng5+ Kh6 24.Ne6+ Kh7 25.Nf4 The end of the combination. White regains the piece with winning position. c5 26.Nxg4+- 1-0 Dvoirys,S (2612)-Khmelniker,I (2458)/ Beersheba 2004/ (34)]

15...Ne5

[15...d4? 16.Kg1 Ne5 17.cxd4 Nxf3+ 18.gxf3 Rad8 19.Be3 c5 20.Qd3 g6 21.Nd2± 1-0 (30) Short,N (2620)-Popovic,P (2560) Belgrade 1987]

16.Be3

[16.Bg5?? Qxg5 17.N1d2 Ng4+ 18.Kg1 Qe3+ 0-1 Blandnet,J (2160)-Bellier/ Paris 1993/ *(18...Qe3+ 19.Kh1 Nf2+ 20.Kg1 Nxd1+ 21.Kh1 Nf2+ 22.Kg1 Nh3+ 23.Kh1 Qg1+ 24.Nxg1 Nf2#)*]

[16.Kg1 Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 Qxf3 18.gxf3 Rxf3 19.Bg5 *(19.Be3 Bh3 20.Bc5 Re8 21.Ng3 Kf7 22.Bf2 g6 23.Re1 Rxe1+ 24.Bxe1 Ke6 25.Bd1 Rf7=* 0-1 (51) Skawinski,A (2367)-Areshchenko,A (2654) Poland 2016*; 19.Bd1 Rf7 20.Ng3 Bh3 21.Be2 Re8 22.Bd2 c5 23.Bf1 Bxf1 24.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 25.Kxf1 Kf7∓* 0-1 (56) Morovic Fernandez,I (2450)-Jussupow,A (2590) Tunis 1985*)* 19...Bh3 20.Nd2 Rf7 21.Re1 Raf8 22.Be3 Re7 23.Bf2 Rxe1+ 24.Bxe1 Re8 25.Kf2=

½ (42) Areshchenko,A (2677)-Zubarev,A (2548) Lvov 2015]
16...Rae8
[16...Nxf3 17.gxf3 Qh4+ 18.Kg1 Rf6 19.Qd4 Qh5 20.Ng3 Qxf3 21.Rf1 Qg4 22.Rxf6 Qxd4 23.Bxd4 gxf6 24.Nh5 Kf7 25.Nf4± 1-0 (42) Neiksans,A (2577)-Yang,K (2481) Chess.com INT 2022]
17.Bc5
[17.Bd4
A) 17...Bg4 18.N1d2
A1) 18...Qf4 19.Kg1 Nxf3+ 20.Nxf3 Bxf3 *(20...c6* Baburin *21.Bd3 Bxf3 22.Qxf3 Qxf3 23.gxf3 Rxf3 24.Rd1 a5 25.Kg2 Rf4 26.Kg3 g5 27.Rf1 Rxf1 28.Bxf1 h5=* ½ (64) Balashov,Y (2565)-Tukmakov,V (2540) Leningrad 1977 *)* 21.gxf3 Qxf3 22.Qxf3 Rxf3 23.a4 Re2 24.Bb3 c6= *(24...Rf5=* Berggren,AJ-Steinwender,W,IV EU Ch 1990 *)*;
A2) 18...Qh4+ 19.Kg1 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 *(20.Nxf3 Qh5)* 20...Bh3 21.Nf1 Qg5+ 22.Ng3 g6 23.Kh1 h5 24.Qd3 Re6 25.Rg1+- 1-0 Apicella,M (2495)-Hardarson,R (2335)/Reykjavik 1993/ (35);
B) 17...Qh4+ 18.Kg1 Nxf3+ 19.gxf3
B1) 19...Bf5 20.Bxf5 Rxf5≅;
B2) 19...Qg5+ 20.Ng3 Bh3 21.a4 g6 *(21...Re6 22.axb5 axb5 23.f4 Rxf4 24.Qh5* ± Enders,P-Chekhov,V/Dresden 40/(413) 1985 *)* 22.axb5 axb5 23.Bf2 h5 ½-½ Cseshkovsky,V-Chekhov,V/Rostock 38/439 1984;
B3) 19...Bh3;
B4) 19...Qh5 20.Ng3 Qxf3 21.Qxf3 Rxf3 22.Kg2 Rf4 23.a4 b4 24.a5 Bg4± Renet,O-Kotliar,M/St. Martin op (9) 1993/½-½ (56) Ruy Lopez Open Variation-12.Rf2 f6 13.ef6 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]
[17.Kg1 after Nxf3+ 18.gxf3 Qxf3 19.Qxf3 Rxf3 leads to 15.♔g1 With the aid of
A) 20.Bd1 Rf7
A1) 21.Bb3 c6 22.Ng3 *(22.Bd4 Bh3 23.Ne3 Rf4 24.Re1 Re6 25.Bc2 h5 26.Bd3 h4 27.Bc5 a5 28.Bf1 Bf5 29.Re2 Be4 30.h3 Rf3 31.Rf2 Rxf2 32.Kxf2 Rf6+ 33.Ke1 Rf3; 22.Re1 Bh3 23.Nd2)* 22...Bh3 23.Bd4
A1a) 23...g6 24.Bc2 Re6
A1a1) 25.a4 bxa4 *(25...h5 26.axb5 axb5 27.Ra8+ Rf8 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8 29.Bd3 h4 30.Nf1)* 26.Bxa4 h5 27.Nh1;
A1a2) 25.Bd3 h5 26.Bf1 *(26.Nh1 Bf5)* 26...Bxf1 27.Rxf1 *(27.Nxf1 Re2)* 27...h4 28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Nf1 Re2 30.b4 Rxa2-+;
A1b) 23...h5 24.Nxh5 Re2 25.Ng3 *(25.Rb1 Rxb2* '-+' Chekhov.*)* 25...Rxb2 '∓' Chekhov.;
A2) 21.Bc5 Bh3 22.Bb3 c6 23.Ne3 Re5 24.a4 bxa4 *(24...h5 25.axb5 axb5 26.Bc2 Rg5+ 27.Kh1 Rc7 28.Bd6)* 25.Bxa4 *(25.Rxa4 Rxe3)* 25...d4 26.Bxd4 *(26.cxd4)* 26...Rg5+ 27.Kh1 c5 28.Bb3 *(28.Bxc5 Bc8 29.h4 Bb7+ 30.Kh2 Rf2+ 31.Kh3 Bc8+)* 28...cxd4
A2a) 29.Rxa6 Kf8 30.Ra8+ *(30.Bxf7 dxe3)* 30...Ke7 31.Ra7+ Kd8 32.Ra8+ Kc7 33.Ra7+ Kb6 34.Rxf7 dxe3;

A2b) 29.cxd4 Bc8 0-1 Suetin,A (2391)-Mikhalevski,V (2531)/Cappelle la Grande/1999/ (64);

B) 20.Bf2± Kortchnoi/ECO 20...Bh3 *(20...Bf5 21.Bd1 Rd3 22.Bc2 Rf3 23.Bb3 c6 24.Re1 Rxe1 25.Bxe1= ½ (34) Aseev,K (2445)-Ivanchuk,V (2625) Frunze 1988)*

B1) 21.Ng3 g6 22.Re1 Aseev still could get his favourite endgame. Aseev still could get his favourite endgame.See 15. ♔g1 again. *(22.Rd1 c6 23.Bd3 h5 24.Bxg6 Re5 25.Bd4 Rg5 26.Bxh5 Rfxg3+ 27.hxg3 Rxh5 28.Re1 Kf7 29.Re5 Rxe5 30.Bxe5)* 22...Rxe1+ 23.Bxe1 c5!? 'N!?' Black is probably not worse *(23...Kf7 24.Bf2 Ke6 25.Nf1 Rf8 26.Nd2 a5 27.Nb3=* ½ (66) Aseev,K (2530)-Leko,P (2555) Moscow 1995 *)* 24.Bf2 c4 25.a4 *(25.Ne2 Rd3! 26.Be1 Rf3=)* 25...bxa4 26.Bxa4 Rf8= ½ (51) Aseev,K (2565)-Mikhalevski,V (2545) Beersheba 1998;

B2) 21.Nd2!? Rf6 *(21...Rf4 22.Bg3 Rg4 23.Kf2 Rf8+ 24.Ke3 Re8+ 25.Kf2 Rf8+ 26.Ke3=* ½ (53) Ismagambetov,A (2525)-Filippov,A (2584) Tashkent 2009 *)*

B2a) 22.Re1 Rxe1+ 23.Bxe1 h5!? *(23...c6 24.Bh4 Rf7* ½-½ (24) Gutenev,A (2451)-Lysyj,I (2605) Cheliabinsk 2021*; 23...Re6 24.Kf2 Bg4 25.Bd3 c5 26.Bf1 c4 27.Bg2 Rd6 28.Ke3 Re6+ 29.Kf2 Rd6 30.Ke3 Re6+ 31.Kf2* ½-½ (31) Perez Candelario,M (2524)-Kolev,A (2571) Navalmoral 2010 *)*;

B2b) 22.Bd3 h5! 23.Re1□ Rxe1+ 24.Bxe1 c5 25.Bh4?! *(25.Bg3⇄)* 25...Rf4 26.Bg3 Ra4 27.a3 h4↑ Kaminski,M-Chekhov,V/Zubniewice 58/361 1993/0-1 (56)]

17...Nxf3

[17...Rf7 18.N1d2 Bf5 19.Kg1 Nd3 *(19...Nxf3+ 20.Nxf3 Be4 21.Bd3* Fischer,W-Connors,PA,WTcorr 1991 *Bxf3 22.gxf3 Qxf3 23.Qxf3 Rxf3 24.Rd1±)* 20.Bd4 Qd6 21.Qb1 Qg6 22.Nh4 Re1+ 23.Qxe1 Nxe1 24.Rxe1 Qh5 25.Re8+ Rf8 26.Rxf8+ Kxf8 27.Nxf5+- 1-0 (27) Liberzon,V-Rosino,A/Venezia 18/302 1974]

[17...Qh4+ 18.Kg1 Rxf3 19.gxf3 Qh5 20.Ng3 Nxf3+ 21.Kf2 Qxh2+ 22.Kxf3 h5 23.Bf5 h4 24.Qg1 Qxb2 25.Re1 Qxc3+ 26.Qe3 Qxe3+ 27.Rxe3± 1-0 (42) Kantor,G (2582)-Horvath,D (2488) Chennai 2022]

18.gxf3 Rf7 19.Kg2 is another option

[19.Ng3 Bg4 20.Kg1

A) 20...Bxf3 During the game I thought that this move was just bad,but in fact the arising position is quite unclear. For example: 21.Qd3 and Black can choose between three possible moves, each of them deserves attention.

A1) 21...Be4!? 22.Nxe4 dxe4 *(22...Rxe4 23.Qxd5 Rg4+ 24.Kh1 c6 25.Qd3±)*;

A2) 21...Qh4!? 22.Rf1 Be4 *(*Doesn't work *22...Qh3?? 23.Rxf3 Re1+ 24.Rf1)* 23.Nxe4 Rxf1+ 24.Kxf1 dxe4 25.Qd7 *(25.Qd5+!? Kh8 26.Qf7∞)* 25...Qh5 26.Bb3+ Kh8 27.Bf7 Qf3+=;

A3) 21...Qh6!? 22.Rf1 Be4 23.Nxe4 Rxf1+ 24.Kxf1 dxe4 25.Qd7 Qc1+ 26.Bd1∞;

B) 20...Qxf3 Mikhalevski,V: 'Usually it's recommended to trade the Queens when your opponent has two pieces vs rook. However in this particular case I'm not sure what should've been preffered because of exposed position of White's king.' 21.Qxf3

B1) 21...Bxf3? 22.Rf1± '!?' '±!' White creates a threat of 23. Bf5 and when the bishop moves Bxh7+! winning an exchange. Mikhalevski,V: 'White creates a threat of 23. Bf5 and when the bishop moves Bxh7+! winning an exchange.' Rf6 *(22...g6 23.Nf5! gxf5 24.Rxf3; 22...Bg4?? 23.Bxh7++-; 22...Rf4 23.Bd1 Rc4±)* 23.b4± ½-½ (42) Ivanchuk,V-Jussupow,A/Linares 1990/;

B2) 21...Rxf3 Mikhalevski,V: 'This is better than 21...Bxf3 which allows pin on the f-file.'

B2a) Wedberg 22.Kg2 '?!' h5 '!'

B2a1) 23.Rf1? Wedberg Rxf1 24.Kxf1 h4-+ '∓' This evaluation seems to be too optimistic. White is just slightly worse.[Mikhalevski,V] Mikhalevski,V: 'White is just slightly worse.;

B2a2) 23.Bd1?! Wedberg Rd3 24.Bxg4 Rd2+ 25.Kh3 *(25.Be2? h4-+)* 25...hxg4+ 26.Kxg4 Rxh2∓;

B2a3) 23.Bg6 Re6 24.Bxh5 Rxg3+ 25.Kxg3 Bxh5= ½-½ (51) Leko,P-Jussupow,A/Horgen CS 1994 and White managed to hold the position thanks to bishops of opposite color.;

B2b) 22.a4 Bh3 *(22...Rf6 ½-½* Sogaard,O-Wieringen,C/email RCCA 1999/80 telechess (36)*)* 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ne2!? g6 *(24...c6!?; 24...Rxe2?* would be a blunder *25.Ra8+ Kf7 26.Rf8+ Ke6 27.Rxf3 Rg2+ 28.Kh1 Rxc2 29.Rxh3 Rxb2 30.Rxh7* with good chances for a win.*)* 25.Bb3 Kg7 *(25...Re5!?)* 26.Nd4 Rf4 27.Nxb5 c6 28.Nd4 Re5 *(28...Rg4+!? 29.Kf2 Rg2+ 30.Kf3 Rxb2 31.Ra7+ Kf6 32.Bc2±)* 29.Kh1!± 1-0 Vuckovic,B-Ernst,S/Bermuda BER 2002/(60);

B2c) 22.Rf1

B2c1) 22...Rxf1+ 23.Kxf1 A typical for this variation position has arised. White has two minor pieces vs rook and two pawns. I think that despite weakness of the queen side pawns Black can hold with an accurate play. a5N After the game I was really surprised when it's turned out that only this move is a novelty.The idea was to avoid fixing of the a6-pawn with b4. *(23...Kf7 24.Bd3 Re6 25.Bd4 Rh6 26.Kg2 Bh3+ 27.Kf2 Bd7 28.Nf1 a5 29.Be2 ½-½* Groszpeter,A-Gyimesi,Z/Kecskemet 1994/ (29)*; 23...g6 24.Kf2 Kf7 25.Bd4 Re6 26.Bd3 Ke7 27.Nf1 Kd6 ½-½* (46) Gross,D-Simacek,P/Prerov 2001/ *28.b4±)* 24.Bd3 *(* Too early *24.Nf5 Re2! 25.Bd1 Re4* and black is ok.*)* 24...Bd7! *(* In case of *24...c6 25.Nf5* my bishop would remain out of play on g4 and also the c6-pawn is getting weak.*)* 25.h4! First of all White improves his position on the king side and creates a positional threat of h5. *(*Now *25.Nf5*

is not dangerous. *)* 25...g6

B2c11) Also immediate 26.h5!? deserved serious attention and Balck has to make a choice between allowing h6 or exchanging h and g-pawns for White's h-pawn. gxh5 *(26...Kf7!?)* 27.Nxh5 Kf7 28.Bd4 *(28.Bxh7!? ⩲Rh8 29.Nf6!)*;

B2c12) 26.Kf2 White is improving the position of his king. 26...Kf7 27.Ne2 a4 28.Nd4 c6 Now I have only one weakness on the queen side on c6 which can be defended easily. I just need to trade the king side pawns. 29.Nf3 Bf5!? A bit risky, but probably correct decision. 30.Bf1 White is trying to avoid any complications. *(30.Bxf5!?* could give some counter play. *gxf5 31.Nd4 Re4⇄)* 30...Kf6± ½-½ Zarnicki,P (2535)-Mikhalevski,V (2524)/Merliot 2002/ (60);

B2c2) 22...h5 23.Rxf3 Bxf3 24.Bg6 Re6 25.Bf5 Rc6 26.Bd4 Bg4 27.Bxg4 hxg4 28.Nf5 Re6 29.Ne3= ½ (71) Van Foreest,J (2714)-Le,Q (2709) Oslo 2022]

[19.Kg1 Qxf3 *(19...Qg5+ 20.Ng3 g6∞)* 20.Qxf3 Rxf3 21.Re1

A) 21...Kf7

A1) 22.Ng3 g6 23.a4 *(23.Rf1 Rxf1+ 24.Nxf1 d4 25.Bxd4 Bxa2 26.Ne3 Ke6 27.Kf2 Kd6 28.b4 a5 29.bxa5 Ra8 30.Bd3 Rxa5 31.Ng4 c5 32.Be5+ Kd5∓* 0-1 Hala,M-Sandor,C/Pardubice 1996/ (45)*)* 23...h5 24.Rf1 Rxf1+ 25.Nxf1 Bf5 26.Bxf5 gxf5 27.axb5 axb5 28.Kf2 Ra8 29.Kg3 Ke6 30.Ne3 Ra2= Kalod,R-Mikhalevski,A/Pardubice 1996/ ½-½ (46);

A2) 22.Re2!? Bh3 23.Rf2 Rf6 24.Ne3 Re5? 25.Rxf6+ gxf6 26.Kf2± 1-0 (72) Shmuter,L (2480)-Mikhalevski,V (2525) Rishon Le Ziyyon 1995;

A3) 22.Nd2!? '!?' This time Konstantin comes with an interesting novelty. 22...Rf4□

A3a) 23.Be3!? deserves serious attention.In the following complications White obtain slightly better play.

A3a1) 23...Bh3!? 24.Bxf4 Rxe1+ 25.Kf2 Ra1∞ *(25...Re7 26.Nf3)*;

A3a2) 23...Rf6? 24.Bg5 Bf5 25.Rxe8 Rg6 26.Re5!+-;

A3a3) 23...Bd7!?;

A3a4) 23...Bf5 24.Bxf4 *(24.Bb3 c6)* 24...Rxe1+ 25.Kf2 Re6!±;

A3b) 23.Bf2?! c6!

A3b1) 24.Nb3!?

A3b11) ⌓24...g6! 25.Nc5 *(25.Bg3 Bh3!)*

A3b111) 25...Bf5 26.Rxe8 Kxe8 27.Bxf5 *(27.Bg3 Rf3 28.Kg2? Rxg3+!)* 27...Rxf5 28.Nxa6;

A3b112) 25...Bc8 26.Rxe8 Kxe8 27.b4∞;

A3b12) △24...Bf5? 25.Rxe8 Kxe8 26.Bg3 Rf3 27.Nd4;

A3b2) 24.Bg3 Rf6

A3b21) 25.Bxh7!? g6 26.Re3! *(26.Be5 Rf5 ⩲27.Bd4 c5 28.Bxc5 Kg7)* 26...Rf5 *(26...Rh8? 27.Nf3!)* 27.Nf3 Rxf3 28.Rxf3+ Kg7 29.Bxg6 Kxg6=;

A3b22) 25.Kg2= ½ (55) Aseev,K (2519)-Mikhalevski,V (2531) St Petersburg 1999 Probably White should already think about clear equality by means of 25. ♗:h7 as after serial of exchanges which has occuried in the game Black gets slightly better position.;

B) 21...g6 22.Re3 Rxe3 23.Nxe3 a5 24.Bd3 c6 25.Kf2 a4 26.Nc2 Bd7 27.Nd4± ½ (64) Illingworth,M (2489)-Short,N (2664) Pattaya 2015]

[19.Bd3 Whith this new move (19. ♔g2 is the old move) White is preparing to meet 19. - ♗g4 with 20. ♗e2. However, Yusupov`s strong answer puts the value of 19. ♗d3 in doubt. 'Whith this new move White is preparing to meet 19. - ♗g4 with 20. ♗e2. However, Yusupov`s strong answer puts the value of 19. ♗d3 in doubt.' Bh3! '↑!' 20.Ng3 h5 '!' 21.Bf1 '!' *(21.Nxh5 '?' Qg5 22.Ng3 d4! 23.Bxd4 c5-+ (Yusupov))* 21...Bg4 '!?' 22.Bg2 h4 23.Nf1 h3 23. - ♖e4!? '?!' Schussler: '23. - ♖e4!?' 24.Bh1 Re4 *(24...Qg6 25.Ng3)* 25.Ng3 *(25.Be3!?∞)* 25...Rf4∓ 0-1 (37) Short,N (2660)-Jussupow,A (2610) Belgrade 1989]

19...d4!!

[19...h5 20.Qd3 Qg5+ 21.Kh1 Bf5 22.Qxd5 c6 23.Qxc6 Bd7 24.Qg6 *(24.Qd6 Re6 25.Qb8+ Re8 26.Qd6=)* 24...Qxc5 25.Bb3± Kuprejcik-Shereshevskij/URS/1978 Ree7 26.Ng3 Bc6! 27.Ne4! *(27.Rf1 Kf8! 28.Bxf7 Rxf7 29.Kg2 h4! 30.Ne4 Bxe4 31.Qxe4 Re7! 32.Qxh4 Re2+ 33.Rf2 Rxf2+ 34.Qxf2 Qg5+! 35.Qg3 Qd2+=)* 27...Qe3?! 28.Rf1 Qe2 29.Qg2!± 1-0 Vojna,A-Eriksen/corr/1987 (37)]

[19...Qg5+!?

A) 20.Kh1

A1) 20...d4!

A1a) 21.Bxd4? Bd5

A1a1) 22.Bb3! c5 23.Be3 *(⌓23.Bxd5 Qxd5 24.Bf2 Qxf3+ 25.Qxf3 Rxf3 26.Bxc5 Re2∓)* 23...Bxb3 24.Bxg5 Bxd1 25.Rxd1 Rxf3 26.Kg2 Rf5 27.h4 *(27.Be3 Rxf1! 28.Kxf1 Rxe3 29.Rd6 Rf3+! 30.Kg2 Rf6)* 27...Re2+ 28.Kh3 Rxb2 29.Ne3 Rff2! 30.Kg3 *(30.Rd8+ Rf8)* 30...Rbd2! 31.Be7 Rfe2!-+ 0-1 Acs,P (2460)-Mikhalevski,A (2470)/ Budapest 1997/ (47);

A1a2) 22.Nd2 Rxf3! 23.Nxf3 Re1+!-+;

A1b) 21.Qxd4 Rxf3 22.Be4 Rf4 23.Re1 *(23.Ng3 Rxe4 24.Nxe4 Bd5 25.Re1 Qf5-+)* 23...Rxe4! 24.Rxe4 Bd5-+ ∓ Gruenfeld,Y-Mikhalevsky,V/ Israel (ch)/1991/;

A2) 20...Qh5 21.Nd2 Bh3∞;

B) 20.Ng3

B1) 20...h5 21.Kh1 *(21.f4 Rxf4 22.Qxh5 Qxh5 23.Nxh5±)* 21...h4 22.Qd3 Qh6 23.Be3 Qh8 24.Nf1 Bf5∓ Soffer,R;

B2) 20...g6 21.Qd4 *(⌓21.a4)* 21...Bd7 22.Rf1 *(22.h4?* Kortschnoj *Re2+-+)* 22...Rf4 23.Qd3 *(23.Qd2?* Kortschnoj *Bh3+! 24.Kh1 Bxf1 25.Nxf1 Qe5∓)* 23...Rh4→ 24.Rh1 c6 25.Kf2= 0-1 (37) Acs,P (2440)-Gyimesi,Z (2545)/Budapest 1996/]

[19...Bf5 20.Bxf5 Qxf5 21.Ng3 Qg5 22.Qd3 h5 23.h4!± Qxh4 24.Rh1 Qc4 25.Qxc4 bxc4 26.Rxh5 1-0 Ilincic,Z (2490)-Todorovic,G (2415)/Kladovo 1990/ (63)]

[19...Qh4 20.Ng3 Bh3+ *(20...Rf6 21.Qd3 Rh6 22.Rh1± Ernst,T-Bjarnasson,S, Limhamn 1991)* 21.Kg1 c6 22.a4 Qf4 23.axb5 axb5 24.Qd3 g6 25.Bd1± Polster,W-Winkelmann,H,CC-BdF-Meisterkl-Vorr J17 1987]

20.Bxd4 Qg5+ 21.Ng3

[21.Kh1 Bd5 22.Bb3! '!' c5 23.Be3 *(⌓23.Bxd5 Qxd5 24.Bf2 Qxf3+ 25.Qxf3 Rxf3 26.Bxc5 Re2∓)* 23...Bxb3 24.Bxg5 Bxd1 25.Rxd1 Rxf3 26.Kg2 Rf5 27.h4 *(27.Be3 Rxf1! 28.Kxf1 Rxe3 29.Rd6 Rf3+! 30.Kg2 Rf6)* 27...Re2+ 28.Kh3 Rxb2 29.Ne3 Rff2! '!' 30.Kg3 Rbd2! '!' 31.Be7 Rfe2!-+ 0-1 Acs,P (2460)-Mikhalevski,A (2470)/Budapest 1997/ (47)]

21...c5 22.Bf2 Rxf3 23.Kxf3 Bg4+ 24.Kg2 Bxd1 25.Rxd1 g6 26.a4

[26.b4!?

A) 26...c4 27.Rd7 Qc1 28.Be4

A1) 28...Qxc3?! 29.Bd5+ *(29.Bd4 Qd2+ 30.Kh3 Re5∞)* 29...Kh8 30.Ne4 *(30.Bf7 Re3)* 30...Rxe4 *(30...Qe5 31.Bc6±)* 31.Bxe4±;

A2) 28...Qb2 29.Bd5+ Kh8 30.Ne4 Rf8∞ *(30...Qe2 31.Nf6+-)* 31.Bf7 Qe2 32.Nf6 Qc2 33.Ng4 h5 34.Ne5 Qe4+=;

B) 26...Re2 27.h4

B1) 27...Qg4 28.Rd8+ *(28.Bb3+? c4 29.Rd4? Rxf2+ 30.Kxf2 cxb3 31.Rxg4 bxa2-+)* 28...Kf7 29.Bd1 Qxh4∞;

B2) 27...Rxf2+ 28.Kxf2 Qxh4 29.Kg2 cxb4 30.Rd4 Qf6 31.Ne4∞]

26...Re2 27.h4 Rxf2+

[27...Qg4!? 28.Rd8+ Kf7 29.Bd1 Qxh4 30.Rd7+ *(30.Bxe2 Qxd8 31.axb5 axb5 32.Bxb5 Qd5+∓)* 30...Re7 31.Rd6 Qg5]

28.Kxf2 Qxh4 29.Kg2

[29.Be4]

29...Qg5 30.axb5 axb5 31.Be4 Qe3∞ ½-½ (31) Kudrin,S (2535)-Kaidanov,G (2600) Chandler 1997 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-16.Be3 Rae8 17.Bc5 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

41 **15.Kg1** White has B + N for Black's R + 2P; he is just a bit more active but Black is solid and, on the whole, chances are more or less equal. 15...Qd6 '!?' One of the good options.

[15...Bg4 '!?' 16.Ne3 *(16.Bg5 Bxf3 17.Qd2 Qd6 18.gxf3 e4 19.fxe4 Ne5 20.Kh1 Nf3 21.Qg2 Rae8 22.Be3 c5 23.Ng3 d4 24.Rd1 Kh8 25.cxd4 cxd4 26.Bg1 Nxg1 27.Qxg1=* 0-1 (63) Van Foreest,J (2688)-Mamedyarov,S (2782) Zagreb 2021*; 16.Bb3 Ne7 17.Bg5 Bxf3 18.gxf3 c6 19.Qe2 Qd6 20.Re1 Ng6 21.Ng3 Rae8 22.Bc2 h6 23.Be3 Nh4 24.Rf1* 0-1 (49) Narayanan,S (2535)-Lodici,L (2492) Chess.com INT 2020 *c5∓)* 16...Be6 provoking the knight to e3, where it is misplaced. *(16...Bxf3 17.gxf3 Ne7 18.Qd3 g6 19.Ng4 Nf5 20.Nxe5 Qd6 21.f4 Qc5+ 22.Kh1 d4 23.Bb3+ Kg7 24.cxd4 Qxd4 25.Bd2 Qxd3*

26.Nxd3+- ½ (88) Grandelius,N (2670)-Mikhalevski,V (2552) Tornelo INT 2021 *)*

A) 17.b4 h6 *(17...d4 18.Qd3 g6 19.cxd4 Nxb4 20.Qc3 Rxf3 21.Qxb4 Rf4 22.Bb3 Qd7 23.Nc2 Rf7=* 1-0 (59) Sasikiran,K (2640)-Vokhidov,S (2521) Riga 2021 *)* 18.a4 Qd6 19.Bb2 Ne7 20.Qe1 e4 21.Nd4 Bd7 22.a5 Ng6 23.Nxd5 Rae8 24.Qg3**±** 1-0 (45) Nepomniachtchi,I (2782)-Tabatabaei,M (2551) Almaty 2022;

B) 17.Bb3 e4 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Qf6 20.Bd2 c5 21.Qe1 cxd4 22.Nxd5 Qf7 23.Nc7 Bxb3 24.Nxa8 Bc2 25.Nb6 e3 26.Bxe3 dxe3 27.Qxe3 Be4**∓** 0-1 (42) Sevian,S (2660)-Paravyan,D (2629) Jermuk 2021;

C) 17.b3

C1) 17...Kh8 18.Ba3 Rf4 19.Bc5 d4 20.cxd4 exd4 21.Qd3 Bg8 22.Nf5 Qd5 23.Ba3 Re8 24.Rd1**±** 1-0 (51) Carlsen,M (2855)-Mamedyarov,S (2762) chess24.com INT 2021;

C2) 17...d4 18.cxd4 *(18.Qd3 g6 19.cxd4 Nxd4 20.Bb2 Nxf3+ 21.gxf3 Rxf3 22.Qe2 Qg5+ 23.Ng2 Raf8∓* 0-1 (29) Firouzja,A (2759)-Vidit,S (2726) Chess24.com INT 2021*)* 18...Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Qxd4 20.Rb1 Rad8 21.Qe1 Bf5 22.Rb2 Bd3 23.Bxd3 Qxd3 24.h3 Rd4 25.Rc2**±** ½ (52) Vachier Lagrave,M (2777)-Tabatabaei,M (2526) Almaty 2022;

C3) 17...e4 18.Nd4 Nxd4

C3a) 19.Qxd4 Qd6 20.b4 Qf4 21.Bd2 Qf2+ 22.Kh1 a5 *(22...Rf7 23.Be1 Qe2 24.Bg3±* 1-0 (50) Bjerre,J (2612)-Hector,J (2454) Sweden 2022 *)* 23.Bb3 c6 24.Rg1 a4 25.Bc2 Rf6 26.Be1 Qf4 27.Bg3 Qg5 28.Re1 Raf8 29.Be5 Rf2 30.Bg3 R2f6 31.Be5 Rf2 ½-½ (31) Hakobyan, A (2621)-Sindarov,J (2571) Sharjah 2021;

C3b) 19.cxd4 Qf6 20.Qd2 c5 21.Bb2 c4 22.Ba3 Rf7 23.Bc5 Rc8 24.Rf1 Qg6 25.Rxf7 Qxf7 1-0 (52) Vachier Lagrave,M (2761)-Sindarov,J (2609) Warsaw 2021 26.bxc4 bxc4 27.Bd6**±**;

C4) 17...a5 18.Bb2 Qe7 19.Qe1 ½-½ (21) Esipenko,A (2678)-Najer,E (2676) Cheboksary 2022]

[15...Qd7!? A minor surprise perhaps. Van Foreest played Qd6 against Fabiano, while many others, including Mamedyarov and Vidit, have tried 16.Bg5 The standard way to develop, White throws out the bishop, heading towards h4-g3 where it will not obstruct his other pieces. *(16.a4 Kh8 17.axb5 axb5 18.Rxa8 Rxa8 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Qh5 g5 21.Bxg5 Kg8 22.Bf6 Nc4 23.Qg5+ Kf8 24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.Bd4 Nd6=* ½ (54) Huschenbeth,N (2611)-Grandelius,N (2663) Germany 2022*; 16.Be3 Bg4 17.Bb3 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Ne7 19.Bc5 c6 20.Qe2 Rf6 21.Qxe5 Ng6 22.Qg3 Nf4 23.Kh1 Nd3∓* 0-1 (55) Bjerre,J (2550)-Grandelius,N (2666) Malmo 2021*)* 16...Rae8 Black is mobilizing as well. At some point he will go for some action in the center, but first let's bring the last piece into play. 17.Qd2 *(17.Bh4 d4 18.Ng3 Bd5 19.Ne4 Rf4 20.Qe1 Ref8 21.Bg3 Rxf3 22.gxf3 Rxf3 23.Ng5 Rf5 24.Ne4 Rf3 25.Ng5 Rf5 26.Ne4 ½-½* (26) Chen,Q (2479)-Bai,J (2600) Liaocheng 2021*)* 17...d4 Action! This push is a typical way to get things going. Black is openign files and diagonals for his pieces, before White gets fully

ready for the battle. 18.Ng3? The knight gets somewhat in the way of the bishop, though as we will see, exploitnig that is not very easy. *(18.Re1* Is advised, bringing the rook into the game and keeping the g3 square for the bishop.*)* 18...h6 Not fearing any ghosts. 19.Bxh6 is not scary, as the queen is there to defend the 7th rank, while 19.Qd3 is well met with 19...Bf5! 20.Nxf5 e4. 19.Bh4 *(19.Qd3 Bf5! 20.Nxf5 e4)* 19...dxc3 Start of some concrete action. 20.Qxc3 And here, feeling that there has to be something concrete, Fabiano miscalculates.

A) 20...b4! 21.Qc5 Nd4

A1) one point of including 20...b4 first is that now 22.Nxe5? loses to Qd6 *(or 22...Qd5)*;

A2) 22.Nxd4 Qxd4+ 23.Qxd4 exd4 And this endgame is quite bad for White, as he is struggling to find harmony within his pieces. Currently the threat is g5, while the d-pawn is also annoying potentially.;

B) 20...Nd4 was also decent, but here White can take on e5, with some complications.;

C) 20...Rxf3?? I assume Fabi missed that after 21.gxf3 Nd4 22.Bd1! is strong, with the idea that 22...g5 now no longer traps the bishop because of 23.Ne4! intermezzo, threatening Nf6+. Because of this important motive, the whole exchange sac just doesn't work and Black ends up down a piece. Instead, the right way to start the action was Nd4 idea, best executed with 20...b4! included. 21.gxf3 Nd4 22.Bd1! Actually the game could still have been exciting, had Maxime showed some weakness, but his conversion was absolutely impeccable. Rf8 Fabi plays on. He does have 2 pawns and White king is a little weak potentially. *(22...g5 23.Ne4!* is the crucial motif.*)* 23.Ne4 Bc4 24.Kg2 Rf4 Black is bringing pieces forward, but Maxime shows accuracy. 25.Be1! Not 25.Bg3?? because of 25...Qh3+!! with mate to follow on f1 square. *(25.Bg3?? Qh3+!! 26.Kxh3 Bf1#)* 25...Qf5 26.Nd2! Very precise play by Maxime. He is withdrawing first, making sure the king is safe and f3 pawn is secured. Bg3 will come next. e4 27.Bg3! Again accurate. The pawn on f3 will be a great shield for the White king, no matter its color. exf3+ 28.Kf2 King is safe here. Black's play ran out of steam and the rest is easy conversion for MVL. Rg4 29.Nxc4 bxc4 30.Bxf3 Nxf3 31.Qxf3+- 1-0 (39) Vachier Lagrave,M (2750)-Caruana,F (2786) Bucharest 2022]

[15...Qf6 16.Bg5 Qf7 17.Bh4 h6 18.Bg3 Rad8 19.Qd2 d4 20.Be4 dxc3 21.Qxc3 Nd4 22.Nxd4 Rxd4 23.Bf3 Bd5 24.Nd2± 1-0 (51) Pichot,A (2625)-Hungaski,R (2537) Florianopolis 2022]

16.Be3

[16.Bg5 e4 17.Nd4 Ne5 18.Ne3 Bd7 19.Bh4 Qh6 20.Ndf5 Bxf5 21.Nxf5 Nf3+ 22.Qxf3 Qb6+ 23.Qe3 Rxf5 24.Qxb6 cxb6 25.Bf2+- 1-0 (36) Carlsen,M (2864)-Niemann,H (2642) chess24.com INT 2022]

[16.Ng5 Bf5 '!' 17.Bb3 '?!' *(17.Bxf5 Rxf5 18.Qd3 e4 19.Qh3 Qg6 20.Ng3 Rf6 21.Nh5* , normally, it's only Black, who, if he so wishes, can avoid the repetition and try to play for a win.*)* 17...Ne7 18.Ng3 *(18.Ne3 Rad8!* Darga-Larsen/World

U20-ch Copenhagen 1953/ was better for Black Darga-Larsen/World U20-ch Copenhagen 1953/ was better for Black*)* 18...c6 19.Be3 *(19.Qe2 Kh8 20.Bd2 h6 21.Re1 e4 22.Qh5 Bg6 23.Qh3 Nf5 24.Nxf5 Bxf5∓* 1-0 (39) Vachier Lagrave,M (2778)-Heimann,A (2617) Karlsruhe 2020*)* 19...h6 20.N5e4 Qg6 21.Bc5 Rf7 22.Nd6 Bg4 23.Qe1 Rf6 24.Qxe5 Re6 25.Qd4 Rf8 26.Nde4 Rf4 27.Bxe7 Rxe7= 0-1 (32) Hansen,E (2606)-Van Foreest,J (2702) Chess.com INT 2022]

[16.Qe2 e4 17.Nd4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 c5 19.Be3 c4 20.Bf2 b4 21.Ne3 Qb6 22.Qd1 a5 23.b3 c3 24.a3 Ra7 25.axb4 axb4 26.Rxa7 Qxa7 27.Bg3= 0-1 (52) Fier,A (2602)-Cuenca Jimenez,J (2545) Roquetas de Mar 2023]

[16.Ng3?

A) Quite unpleasant for White would have been 16...Bg4! with the idea of 17.Bxh7+ Kh8! *(*naturally, not *17...Kxh7? 18.Ng5+)* 18.Bc2? Qc5+ 19.Kh1 Qf2!;

B) 16...h6? 17.Qe1 *(*White could have played *17.Be3!?* and if *Bg4 18.h3 Bxf3 19.gxf3 ⩲e4!? 20.f4* but if Vachier-Lagrave decided that this line looks too risky, it's easy to understand.*)* 17...Bg4?! *(*Engines suggest *17...e4! 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 c5! 20.Be3 c4!* claiming that Black is better. Still, maybe it's not too dramatic for White after, say, *21.Qa5)* 18.Nh4!⇄ e4!? 19.h3! Bd7 20.Be3! Qf6 *(*The attempt to win a knight by *20...g5?* fails to *21.Nxe4! dxe4 22.Rd1± Qf6 23.Rxd7* , etc.*;* A playable, even if uninspiring, alternative was *20...Ne7!? 21.Rd1 Qc6* and if *22.Bb3 Kh7 23.Bc2 Kg8* repeating.*)* 21.Nh5!

B1) After 21...Qf7!? 22.Nf4 Black has to defend passively by Ne7! *(if 22...g5? 23.Nxd5!±)*;

B2) 21...Qe5

B2a) A more critical iine was 22.g4! Rf7 23.Rd1 *(23.Bb3!?)* 23...Ne7 with interesting play. Which is, possibly, more interesting for White.;

B2b) 22.Nf4 Rxf4!! A pretty combination saves Black. 23.Ng6 Rf1+! 24.Kxf1 *(*If *24.Qxf1? Qg3!* regaining the piece.*)* 24...Qf5+ 25.Nf4 g5 26.Qg3! Kh7 And Black will emerge with an extra pawn. But White's activity will provide enough resources for the first player. 27.Ke2!? gxf4 28.Qxf4! Qxf4 29.Bxf4 Rg8= ½ (42) Vachier Lagrave,M (2779)-Mamedyarov,S (2801) Biel 2018]

[16.a4 (S.Zamora-K.Pecotic, IECG 2004)]

16...Bf5

[16...Rad8 17.Qe1 *(17.Ng3 Bg4 18.h3 e4 19.Nxe4 Bxf3 20.Nxd6 Bxd1 21.Rxd1 cxd6 22.Rxd5 Ne5 23.Bd4 Nc4 24.b3 Ne5∓* ½ (47) Petrov,N (2571)-Girya,O (2432) Cheliabinsk 2021*)* 17...Bf5 18.Bxf5 Rxf5 19.Rd1 h6 20.Bf2 Rf7 21.Bg3 Qc5+ 22.Bf2 Qd6 23.Qe2 Rdf8 24.Bg3 Qc5+ 25.Bf2 Qd6 26.Bg3 Qc5+ 27.Bf2 ½-½ (27) Caruana,F (2792)-Van Foreest,J (2702) Wijk aan Zee 2022]

[16...Bg4 17.Bxh7+ Kh8 18.Bc2 *(18.Qe1 Qf6 19.Ng5 g6 20.Qh4 Bh5*

21.Ng3 d4 22.Nxh5 gxh5 23.Qxh5 Kg7 24.Be4 Qh6 25.Ne6+ 1-0 (25) Motylev,A (2632)-Dushyant,S (2416) Biel 2022*)* 18...e4 19.Qe1 Bxf3 20.Qh4+ Kg8 21.gxf3 Ne5 22.Qh5 Rxf3 23.Rd1 Raf8 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.Rxd6 Rxf1+ 26.Kg2 cxd6-+ 0-1 (36) Soffer,R (2475)-Nabaty,T (2632) Israel 2023]

17.Bb3 Rad8 18.Qe1 Na5 19.Qf2 Nb7 20.Re1 Kh8

[20...c5 21.Ng3 Bd3 22.Qd2 c4 23.Bd1 Rd7 24.Bf2 Rdf7= 1-0 (74) Nakamura,H (2760)-Caruana,F (2783) Madrid 2022]

21.Qg3 Rde8 22.Bf2 Be4 23.N1d2 Bxf3 24.Nxf3 e4 25.Qxd6 Nxd6 26.Nd4 Nc4 27.Bxc4 bxc4 28.b4 cxb3 29.axb3= 1-0 (40) Carlsen,M (2859)-Le,Q (2728) chess24.com INT 2022 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.Nbd2 0-0 11.Bc2 Nf2 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[42] **10...Ba7** 11.Be3 Nc5 12.Bxc5 Bxc5 13.Nbd2 0-0 14.Bc2 g6 15.Nb3 Ba7 16.a4 b4 17.Nbd4 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 bxc3 19.bxc3 Bd7 20.Qd2 c5 21.Ne2 Bc6 22.f4 d4 23.c4 f6 24.f5 g5= 1-0 (55) Firouzja,A (2669)-Ertan,C (2404) Karlsruhe 2019

10...Qd7 11.Be3 Rd8 12.Nbd2 Bf5 13.Qe2 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 Nxd2 15.Qxd2 0-0 16.Rad1 Be4 17.Ng5 Nxe5 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Qf4 Nd3 20.Qxe4 c5 21.Bc2 ½-½ (21) Luther,T (2550)-Slobodjan,R (2500) Altensteig 1995

[43] **11...Qd7** 12.Nbd2 Bxe3 13.Qxe3 f5

[13...Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Ne7 15.Qe3 Rfd8 16.Rfe1 Bg4 17.Ng5 ∞ 18.e6 »; Silvino]

14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Qc5 Rae8 16.Nd4 Ne5 17.Bc2 Qf7 18.a4 bxa4 19.Rxa4 Bc8 20.Ra5 c6 21.N2f3 Nxf3+ 22.Nxf3 Re2 23.Bd3 Rxb2 24.Qxc6± Prasad,D-Bhave,R/Calcutta (01)/1992/1-0 (34)

11...Ne7 12.Nd4! Bxd4 13.cxd4 Bf5

[13...c5 14.dxc5 Qc7 15.Rc1 Qxe5 16.f3 Nf6 17.Bd4 Qg5 18.Nc3 Rfd8 19.Ne2 Rac8 20.a4 Nc6 21.axb5 axb5 22.Kh1 Ne4 23.Be3 d4 24.Bxe6 dxe3 25.Qxe4 fxe6 26.Qxe6+± 1-0 (60) Vovk,A (2551)-Holzke,F (2506) Hastings 2012]

14.Qd1 h6 15.f3 Ng5 16.Nc3± ½-½ Garcia Martinez,S (2450)-Cordova,R/Cienfuegos 1984

[44] **12.Nbd2** Nxd2

[12...Bxe3 13.Nxe4 Bb6 14.exf6 gxf6 15.Rad1 Ne7 16.Ng3 Bf7 17.Bc2 Bg6 18.Qd2 Qd7 19.Rfe1 Rae8 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.Nd4 Rf7 22.b4 Bxd4 23.cxd4± 0-1 (52) Ter Sahakyan,S (2640)-Cheparinov,I (2658) Lichess.org INT 2021]

13.Qxd2 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 Nxe5

[14...fxe5 15.Ng5 Bg4 16.h3 Bh5 17.Ne6 Qd6 18.Nxf8 Rxf8 19.Qg5 Bf7 20.Rfe1 Re8 21.Rad1 Na5 22.Bc2 Nc4 23.b3± 1-0 (51) Fedoseev,V (2704)-Priasmoro,N (2501) Chess.com INT 2022]

15.Nxe5 fxe5 16.Qxe5 Qd7

[16...Bf7 17.Rfe1 Re8 18.Qf4 c5 *(18...Qd7 19.h4 c5 20.Rad1 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Rd8 22.Re5 d4 23.cxd4 Bxb3 24.axb3 cxd4 25.Qe4 h6 26.Re7 Qd6=* ½- (96) ½ (96) Yu,Y (2764)-Mikhalevski,V (2579) St Petersburg 2018 *)* 19.Bc2 Qf6 20.Qc7 Rec8 21.Qe7 Qxe7 22.Rxe7 Kf8 23.Rb7 Rab8 24.Ra7 Ra8 25.Rb7 Rab8 26.Ra7 Ra8 27.Rb7 ½-½ (27) Xiong,J (2709)-Dominguez Perez,L (2758) Lichess.org INT 2020]

17.Rae1

[17.a4 c6 18.axb5 *(18.Rfe1 Bf7 19.Bc2 Rae8 20.Qd4 Qd6 21.Qb6 Rb8 22.Qxa6 Qc5 23.axb5 Rxb5 24.Qa3 Qxa3 25.bxa3 Rc5 26.Re3 d4=* 1-0 (40) Xiong,J (2686)-Paravyan,D (2617) Chess.com INT 2021*)* 18...axb5 19.Bc2 Rxa1 20.Rxa1 Bf5 21.Bxf5 Qxf5 22.Qxf5 Rxf5 23.Ra6 Rf6 24.Kf1± Berelovich,A-Mikhalevski,V/Groningen op (02)/1993/1-0 (45)]

17...Rf6= Bolbochan,J-Teschner,R/Stockholm izt/1962/

[17...Bf7 18.Qe7 Rad8 19.Bc2 Qxe7 20.Rxe7 c5 21.Rd1 d4 22.cxd4 Rxd4 23.Rxd4 cxd4 24.f3 Rc8= 0-1 (55) Fedoseev,V (2674)-Mamedyarov,S (2770) Chess.com INT 2020]

[45] **13.Nbd2** Bxe3

[13...Ne5 Ftacnik 14.Nxe5 Qxe5 15.Bd4 Bxd4 16.cxd4 Qd6 17.Rae1 *(17.Rac1 Nxd2 18.Qxd2 Rf6 19.Qc3 Rc8 20.Rfe1 c6 21.Re3 Bd7 22.Re5 Rcf8 23.Rc2 Rf4 24.Rce2±* Tal,M-Langeweg,K/Wijk aan Zee/1968/1-0 (41)*)* 17...Nf6 18.Bc2 g6 19.Qg3 Qxg3 20.hxg3 Rae8 21.f3 Bf7 22.Nb3 Nd7 23.g4 Rxe1 24.Rxe1± Sigurjonsson,G-Strobel,F/Vraca zt/1975/1-0 (41)]

[13...Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Bxe3 15.fxe3 Na5 16.Bxd5 Nc4 17.Bxc4 Bxc4 18.Rf2 Rad8 19.Nd4 Qg6 20.Rxf8+ Rxf8 21.b3 Bd3 22.Ne6 Qxe6 23.Qxd3± 1-0 (41) Giri,A (2782)-Anand,V (2759) Leuven 2018]

14.Qxe3 Nxd2

[14...Rae8 15.Nxe4 *(15.Rfe1 Na5 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Bxe6+ Qxe6 18.Ng5 Qg6 19.b3 Nb7 20.Nxe4 Nd6 21.f3 Nxe4 22.fxe4 Re5=* ½ (52) Sargsyan,S (2641)-Gharibyan,M (2487) Jermuk 2022*)* 15...dxe4 16.Ng5 Bxb3 17.axb3 Qf5 18.Rae1 Na5 19.Nxe4 Nxb3 20.f3 Rd8 21.Rf2 a5 22.Rfe2 h6 23.h4 a4 24.Nf2 c6 25.Qb6 Qc5 26.Qc7 Qd6 27.Qb6 Qc5 28.Qc7 Qd6 29.Qb6 Qc5 ½-½ (29) Kuybokarov,T (2549)-Sindarov,J (2544) Tornelo INT 2021]

15.Qxd2

[15.Nxd2 Ftacnik Na5 *(15...Rae8 16.Qc5 Ne5 17.Bxd5 Nd3 18.Bxe6+ Rxe6 19.Qxc7 Nxb2⇄; 15...Bf7 16.Nf3 Rae8 17.Qc5 Ne5 18.Nxe5 Qxe5 19.a4 Rb8 20.Rfe1 Qd6 21.Qxd6 cxd6 22.axb5 Rxb5 23.Bd1 Rxb2 24.Bf3=* 0-1 (56) Movsesian,S (2627)-Harikrishna,P (2719) Riga 2021 *)* 16.Bc2]

15...Rad8

[15...Kh8 16.Rfe1 *(16.Nd4 Bg8 17.Nxc6 Qxc6 18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Rfe1 Qd6 20.Qg5 Rfe8 21.h3 c5 22.g3 h6 23.Qf5 Rf8 24.Qh5 Qf6∓* ½ (71) Korneev,O (2638)-Ernst,S (2504) Tilburg 2006*)* 16...Bg8 17.Qe3 Rad8 18.Rad1 Bf7 19.Qg5 Bg8 20.Qh5 d4 21.Bxg8 Kxg8 22.Qc5 dxc3 23.bxc3=

½ (65) Vokhidov,S (2481)-Matlakov,M (2671) Almaty 2022]
16.Rfe1
[16.Nd4 Bf7 17.Bc2 Na5= Ivkov,B-Gueller / Zagreb 1955]
16...Kh8
[16...Na5 17.Qe3±]
17.Re3
[17.Nd4 Bg8= 18.Bc2 *(18.Nxc6 Qxc6 19.Re5 Qd6 20.Rae1 c5 21.Re7 c4 22.Qd4 Qf6 23.Qxf6 Rxf6 24.Bc2 d4=* 0-1 (48) Warmerdam,M (2506)-Ernst,S (2540) Lichess.org INT 2020*; 18.a4 Ne5 19.Rxe5 Qxe5 20.Nc6 Qd6 21.Nxd8 Rxd8 22.axb5 axb5 23.Qd3 c5 24.Qg3 Qf6∓* 0-1 (43) Hansen,E (2568)-Matlakov,M (2674) Almaty 2022*)* 18...Ne5 19.b4 Nc4 20.Qe2 a5 21.Qf3 Qb6 22.Qg3 axb4 23.Nf5 Qf6 24.cxb4 d4-+ 0-1 (34) Xiong,J (2708)-Adhiban,B (2639) Douglas 2019]
[17.Qe3 Bg4 18.Nd4 Na5 19.h3 Bc8 20.Rad1 c5 21.Ne2 Bb7 22.Qxc5 d4⇄]
[17.Re2
A) 17...Bg8 Ftacnik 18.Rd1 d4!?
A1) 19.cxd4 Ftacnik Bxb3 *(19...Nxd4 20.Nxd4 c5 21.Re4; 19...Bd5 20.Bxd5 Rxd5 21.Re4 Rfd8 22.Rde1 Qf7 23.Qc3±)* 20.axb3 Nxd4 *(20...Qd6 21.Re4 Qd5 22.Qe3 Nb4 23.Rc1)* 21.Nxd4 c5 22.Re4 h6! *(22...Rd5 23.b4 cxd4 24.Rxd4±)* 23.b4 Rxd4 24.Rxd4 cxd4 25.Qxd4 Qxd4 26.Rxd4 Rc8 27.Kf1 Rc2=;
A2) 19.Nxd4 Nxd4 20.cxd4 c5 21.Re4 *(21.d5?! c4 22.Bc2 Rxd5∓)*
A2a) 21...Bd5 22.Bxd5 Rxd5 23.Qe3±;
A2b) 21...Qg6 22.Rde1 c4 23.Bd1 Bd5 24.Rg4±;
A2c) 21...Bxb3 22.axb3 Qf7 *(22...h6 23.Qe3 Qf7)* 23.Qc2 Rd5⩲;
A2d) 21...c4 22.Bc2 c3 23.bxc3 Bxa2⇄;
B) 17...Bg4!? 18.Re3 d4 19.Nxd4 Nxd4 20.cxd4 Rxd4 21.Qe1 c5=]
17...Bg8 18.Rd1? d4! 19.Ree1 dxc3 20.Qxc3 Qxc3 21.bxc3 Na5?!
[21...h6 22.h3 Na5]
[21...Bxb3 Ftacnik 22.axb3 xa6]
22.Bxg8 Kxg8 23.Ng5!= ½-½ Kamsky,G (2710)-Anand,V (2715)/Las Palmas 1995/(50)
[23.Ne5 Ftacnik Rd6!]
13.Bc2 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 Bf5 15.Nbd2 Nxd2 16.Qxd2 Bxc2 17.Qxc2 Ne5 Zapata,A-Anand,V/Thessaloniki olm (9)/1988/0.5 (17)

[46] **14.Qxe4** Bxd5 15.Qh4 Bxe3 16.fxe3 Bxf3∓
14.Bxc5 Nxc5 15.Bxe6+ Qxe6 16.Qe3 Qxe3 17.fxe3 Nd3∓

[47] **15.Qe2**
[15.Bd4? Rxf3! 16.Qxf3 Bxd4 17.cxd4 Nxd4 18.Qd1 Ng3! Δ 19...♘de2 -+ '-+!']

[15.Qc2? Rxf3! 16.Bxc5 Nxc5 17.gxf3 Rd5!-+]
[15.Nd4 Nxd4 16.cxd4 Bxd4 17.Bxd4 c5 18.Nc3 Rxd4∓ Medina Garcia,A-Karaklajic,N / Casablanca 1974]
15...Nxf2 16.Kxf2 Rde8 17.Re1 Qd6 18.Qd2 Rxf3+ 19.Kxf3
[19.gxf3 Qxh2+=]
19...Ne5+ 20.Ke2 Qc6= Kortschnoj,V Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.Qd3 0-0 11.Be3 f6 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[48] **11...Nxd2** 12.Bxd2 Ne7
[12...Qd7 13.a4 Ne7 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.Qxe3 Nf5 16.Qf4 c5 17.Bc2 h6 18.b4 cxb4 19.cxb4 bxa4 20.Bxa4 Qb7 21.Bc2 Ne7 22.Nd4 Nc6 23.Nxc6 Qxc6 24.Bd3 Qc3 25.Bxa6 Rfb8= ½ (58) Smirin,I (2668)-Amin,B (2544) Bursa 2010]
13.Nd4 Bb6 14.a4± 1-0 Yurtaev,L-Thipsay,P/Frunze 1985/MCD (26)
11...Ng5 12.Bc2 g6 13.Nxg5 Bf5 14.Qg3 Bxc2 15.Ndf3 Bf5 16.Rd1 Be7 17.Qh4 h5 18.Qg3 Qd7 19.Bf4 Rfe8 20.Rd2 Bf8 21.Rad1 Ne7 22.Nxf7± 1-0 (40) Amonatov,F (2574)-Kortschnoj,V (2623) Sochi 2007

[49] **12.Bc2** Qd7 13.Nb3 Be7 14.Nbd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 f4 16.Bd2 Bf5 17.Qb3 Be6 18.Bb4 Bxb4 19.Qxb4 Bg4 20.Qb3 Kh8 21.Rfe1 Be6 22.Rad1 c6 23.Bd3± 1-0 (51) Anand,V (2794)-Sethuraman,S (2617) Douglas 2017
12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 Bb6 14.f3 c5 15.fxe4 fxe4 16.Rxf8+ Qxf8 17.Qg3 c4 18.Qe3 Qb8 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Bc2 Qd8 21.Kh1 Qxd4 22.Qxd4 Bxd4 23.Bxe4 Rf8-+ 0-1 (35) Firouzja,A (2728)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020

[50] **13.Ng5** Ne5 14.Qg3
[14.Qe2 Qd6 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.Kh1 Rae8 17.Bc2 Neg4 18.Qxe6+ Rxe6 19.f3 Ne3 20.Re1 Nxc2 21.Rxe6 Nxa1 22.Nb3 Nxb3 23.axb3 Re8 0-1 (23) Fier,A (2560)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020]
14...Qd6 15.Bc2
[15.Ndf3 Nxf3+ 16.Nxf3 Qxg3 17.hxg3 Rfe8 ½-½ (17) Vovk,A (2567)-Haba,P (2522) Bayerisch Eisenstein 2013]
15...Bd7
[15...Rae8!?]
16.Nb3 Bb6 '⇄' Chekhov. 17.Nd4!?
[17.Bf4 Rae8∞]
17...Rae8 18.Bf4 Nh5! 19.Bxe5 Rxe5 20.Bxh7+ Kh8 21.Qh4 g6⩲ 22.f4 Bxd4+ 23.cxd4 Ref5
[23...Rxg5 24.Qxg5 Kxh7 25.f5 Rxf5 26.Rxf5 Bxf5 27.g4 Qb4 28.Rd1± 1-0 (49) Howell,J (2495)-Flear,G (2525) Oakham 1994]
24.g3 Kg7 25.Rae1 Nxf4 26.gxf4 Rxf4 27.Rxf4 Rxf4 28.Re7+ Kf8 29.Re8+ Kxe8 30.Bxg6+ Ke7 31.Qh7+ Kf6 32.Qh6 Rg4+ 33.Kh1 Qf4 34.Bh5+ Ke7 35.Qg7+ Kd6 36.Qg6+ Ke7 37.Qg7+ Kd6 38.Qg6+ ½-½ Khalifman,A-Kaidanov,G/

Kujbyshev 1986/MCL (38)

13.Re1!? Qd7 14.Nf1

[14.Ng5!?

A) 14...Bf5 15.Nde4 Bxf2+ *(15...Nxe4 16.Qxd5+ Qxd5 17.Bxd5+ Kh8 18.Bxe4 Bxe4 19.Nxe4±)* 16.Kxf2 Bxe4 17.Nxe4 Nxe4+ 18.Kg1 Nf6 19.Bg5 Rad8 20.Rad1 Kh8 21.Bxf6 Rxf6 22.Qxd5 Rd6 23.Qg5±;

B) 14...Rae8!?;

C) 14...Bxf2+ 15.Kxf2 Ne4+ 16.Kg1 Nxg5 17.Rxe6 Nxe6 18.Qxd5 Qxd5 19.Bxd5 Kh8 20.Bxc6 Rad8 21.b3 *(21.Nf1! Rd1 22.Bf3 Re1 23.Kf2±)* 21...Nf4 22.Ba3 Rf6 23.Be7 Rxd2 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Kf1 Nd3⇄]

14...Kh8 15.Be3 Bf5 16.Qd2 Bd6 17.Nd4 Na5!?

[17...Ne5 18.Nxf5 Qxf5 19.Bxd5 Rad8 20.Ng3 Qg6 21.Bb3 Neg4 22.Bc2 Qf7 23.Qe2±]

[17...Nxd4 18.Bxd4 c6 19.Ng3 Bg6 20.f3±]

18.Nxf5 Qxf5 19.Bc2 Qh5 20.b3

[20.Ng3?! Bxg3 21.fxg3 *(21.hxg3 Nc4 22.Qd3 Ng4→)* 21...Nc4 22.Qd3 Ng4-+]

20...Nc6 21.f3?!

[21.Ng3!? Bxg3 22.fxg3 Ng4 23.h3 Nxe3 24.Rxe3±]

21...b4! 22.a3?!

[22.Bd4!? bxc3 23.Qxc3 *(23.Bxc3 d4 24.Bb2 Bb4-+)* 23...Nxd4 24.Qxd4 c5∓]

[22.Red1 bxc3 23.Qxc3 d4 24.Qxc6 dxe3↑]

22...d4

[22...bxa3 23.b4 a5 24.b5 Ne5∓]

23.cxd4 bxa3 24.Ng3 Qb5 25.Rec1 Bb4 26.Qd3 Rad8∓ 0-1 Yurtaev,L (2515)-Magomedov,M (2460)/Yerevan 1996/ (33)

13.Bc2 Qd6

[13...Kh8 14.Nb3 Bd6 15.Bg5 Bg8 16.a4 b4 17.h3 Qe8 18.Rae1 Qh5 19.Bd1 Ne4 20.Be3 Qg6 21.Nfd4 Ne5 22.Qe2 c5 23.Nc2 Nf3+ 24.Kh1 0-1 (39) Pruijssers,R (2500)-Mikhalevski,V (2511) Chess.com INT 2017 Qg3-+]

14.Nb3 Bb6 15.Nfd4 Ne5 16.Qg3 Ne4 17.Bxe4 dxe4 18.Nxe6 Bxf2+ 19.Qxf2 Rxf2 20.Rxf2 Qxe6 21.Nd4 Qd7 22.Be3 Ng4-+ ½- (77) ½ (77) Firouzja,A (2728)-Dominguez Perez,L (2758) Lichess.org INT 2020

[51] **13...b4** 14.Ng5 Ne5

[14...Qd6 15.Nde4 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 Ne5 17.Qd1 dxe4 18.Qxd6 Bxd6 19.Bxe6+ Kh8 20.Bd5 Rab8 21.Bxe4 bxc3 22.bxc3± ½-½ Mortensen,E-Nielsen,P/ Copenhagen BSF 1995 (66)]

15.Qg3 Qd6 16.cxb4

[16.Bc2 h6 17.Nb3 Nh5 18.Qh4 Bg4 19.Nxc5 Qxc5 20.Ne6 Bxe6 21.Qxh5 Ng4 22.Be3 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Qxe3+∓ ½-½ Felsberger,A-Foessmeier,U/AUT BL 1989 (37)]

16...Bxb4 17.Re1 Nfg4 18.Rxe5 Nxe5 19.Nde4+- dxe4 20.Nxe6 Ng6 21.Nxc7+ Kh8 22.Qxd6 Bxd6 23.Nxa8 Rxa8 24.Bd5 Re8 25.Be3+- 1-0 Ivanchuk,V-Piket,J/Monaco Amber blind 1994 (31)

13...Bf7 14.Ng5 Ne5 15.Qg3 Qd6 16.Nxf7

[16.Bc2 h6 *(16...Bg6! 17.Bxg6 Nxg6=)* 17.Nxf7 Nxf7 18.Nb3 Qxg3 19.hxg3 Bb6 20.Nd4 c5 21.Nf5 Rfe8 22.axb5 axb5 23.Ne7+± 1-0 (41) Sokolov,A-Jussupow,A/Riga csf 1986]

16...Nxf7 17.Nf3 Qxg3 18.hxg3 c6 19.Nd4 Bxd4 20.cxd4 Ne4 21.g4 Rfe8 22.Kh2 Nfd6 23.f3 Nf6 24.Bc2± ½ (64) Sokolov,A (2635)-Jussupow,A (2635) Tilburg 1987

13...bxa4 14.Rxa4 Qd6 15.Rxa6 Rxa6 16.Qxa6 Ng4 17.h3 Nxf2 18.Rxf2 Qg3 19.Qe2 Ne5 20.Nd4 Rxf2 21.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 22.Kxf2 Bxd4+ 23.cxd4 Nd3+ 24.Ke3 Nxc1 25.Ba4= ½ (32) Adhiban,B (2654)-Lalith,B (2558) Caleta 2020

13...g6 14.axb5

[14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 Bf5 16.Qc3 Bd6 17.Nf3 b4 18.Qc6 Qe8 19.Qxe8 Raxe8 20.Be3 Kg7 21.h3 Be4 22.Nd2± 1-0 (47) Grandelius,N (2573)-Hector,J (2509) Oerebro 2013]

14...Bf5 15.Qe2 Re8 16.Qd1 axb5 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Bc2 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Ne5 20.Nxe5 Rxe5 21.Nb3 Bb6 22.Nd4 Qe8 23.Qd1 Re4 24.Bg5 Bxd4 25.cxd4± ½ (45) Kazakov,M (2517)-Flear,G (2488) Saint Quentin 2014

[52] **15.Ng5**

[15.Ra6

A) 15...Qd7?! 16.Ng5

A1) 16...Ne5! 17.Qe2 Bd6

A1a) 18.Nxe6 Qxe6 19.Kh1± *(19.Ne4 Nc4 20.Nxf6+ Qxf6 21.g3 Rbe8 22.Qd3 Qf7 23.Bc2= ½ (57) Van Kampen,R (2580)-Mikhalevski,V (2551) Calgary 2013)*;

A1b) 18.f4 Bg4;

A1c) 18.Nde4 Nxe4 19.Nxe6 Nxc3 20.bxc3 Qxe6 21.Qe4 dxe4 22.Bxe6+ Kh8 23.Be3 b4∓ Molnar,B-Sandor,C/Budapest FS05 IM 1996/½-½ (53);

A2) 16...Bf5? 17.Nde4! Bb6 '?' *(17...Ne7 18.Nxc5 Bxd3 19.Nxd7 Nxd7 20.Re1 Nc5 21.Rxe7 Nxb3 22.Be3± ½-½ Gorokhovsky,B-Wiesinger,J/ICCF 1996/ICCF Telechess (32))* 18.Nxf6+ Rxf6 19.Qxd5+ '±' Qxd5 20.Bxd5+± Ivanchuk,V-Kamsky,G/Monaco rapid 1995/½-½ (90);

B) 15...Qd6;

C) 15...Bb6 16.Ng5

C1) 16...Bc8? van der Wiel,J 17.Nde4!→;

C2) 16...Ne5?! van der Wiel,J 17.Qg3 Qd6 18.Rxb6! *(18.Nxe6? Qxe6 19.Rxb6 cxb6! 20.Re1 Rbe8 21.f4 Nh5)* 18...Rxb6 *(18...cxb6 19.Re1+-)* 19.Nxe6! Qxe6 20.Re1±;

C3) 16...Bf7 van der Wiel,J 17.Nxf7 Rxf7± ⊕;

C4) 16...Qd6!?

C4a) 17.Nde4? van der Wiel,J Nxe4 18.Nxe4 *(18.Nxe6 Nxf2 19.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 20.Kh1 Nb4! 21.cxb4 Qxa6-+)* 18...Ne5!∓;

C4b) 17.Nxe6 Qxe6 18.Ne4! Kh8! *(18...Ne7* van der Wiel,J *19.Nxf6+ Qxf6 20.Be3±; 18...Qxe4?* This move should not be repeated again. Grandmaster Flear has a lot of experience in Open Spanish, so it's unlikely that this line is unfamiliar for him. Probably Flear simply forgot to make the only move 18...Kh8... *19.Qxe4 Nxe4 20.Bxd5+ Kh8 21.Bxe4±* 1-0 Sokolov,A (2584)-Flear,G (2516)/Plovdiv 2003/ (34) As a result of black's novelty, white is just a clear pawn up. *)* 19.Nxf6 Qxf6

C4b1) 20.Qxd5?! van der Wiel,J Nb4! 21.Rxb6□ Nxd5 22.Rxf6 Nxf6∓;

C4b2) 20.Be3 van der Wiel,J d4∓;

C4b3) 20.Kh1!? van der Wiel,J Ne5 *(20...d4)* 21.Qxd5 Ng4 22.f3 Nxh2! 23.Bg5 Nxf1 24.Bxf6 Rxf6 25.Rxb6 Rfxb6∞;

C4b4) 20.Bc2

C4b41) 20...g6 van der Wiel,J 21.Qxd5 Nb4 22.cxb4 Bxf2+ 23.Kh1 Qxa6 24.Bd2 Bh4 25.Bc3+ Bf6 *(25...Rf6 26.Qf7)* 26.Qe5!! Bxe5 *(26...Kg7 27.Qxc7+)* 27.Bxe5+ Kg8 28.Bb3+ Rf7 29.Rxf7±;

C4b42) 20...Qh4!

C4b421) 21.Bg5?! van der Wiel,J Qh5 22.Qxd5 *(22.h3 Ne5 23.Qg3 Qe2!∓ ⩲24.Bd1 Bxf2+)* 22...Rbd8!⩱;

C4b422) 21.Qg3 van der Wiel,J Qxg3 22.hxg3 Ne5↑;

C4b423) 21.g3 Qh3 *(21...Qh5 22.Bd1 Qe8 23.Bf4 Ne7 24.Be3* 1-0 (24) Dominguez Perez,L (2677)-Bruzon Batista,L (2614) Santa Clara 2007 *)* 22.Qxd5?! *(22.Bf4!∞* van der Wiel,J *)*

C4b4231) 22...Rxf2? van der Wiel,J 23.Rxf2 Bxf2+ 24.Kxf2 Qxh2+ 25.Qg2 Rf8+ 26.Bf4+-;

C4b4232) 22...Qxf1+? van der Wiel,J 23.Kxf1 Rxf2+ 24.Ke1 Rxc2 *(24...Re8+ 25.Be4+-)* 25.Kd1+-;

C4b4233) 22...Ne5!→

C4b42331) 23.Rxb6 van der Wiel,J Ng4□ 24.Rh6!? *(24.Qg2 Qxg2+ 25.Kxg2 Rxb6 26.Bf4 Rbf6 27.h3 g5 28.hxg4 gxf4 29.Bf5∓)*;

C4b42332) 23.Bf4 Rxf4 24.Rxb6 *(24.Qxe5?* van der Wiel,J *Bxf2+! ɣc2)* 24...cxb6 25.Qxe5 Rff8 *(25...Rbf8=* van der Wiel,J *26.gxf4 Qg4+=)* 26.Qxb5 ½-½ Van der Wiel,J-Mikhalevski,V/Leeuwarden 1995/ (61)]

[15.Bc2 Bf7 16.Nb3 Bd6 *(16...Bb6 17.Nbd4 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Bg6 19.Qd1 Bxc2 20.Qxc2 Qd7 21.b4 Bxd4 22.cxd4=* Garcia,G-Toth,C/Latin Cup Final 1991/ 0-1 (59): 0-1 (59)*)* 17.Nbd4 Nxd4 18.Qxd4 c5 19.Qh4 Ne4 20.Bg5= Puc-Milic,Yugoslavia1946]

15...Ne5

[15...Qd6 16.Bc2 g6
A) 17.b4 Bb6 18.Nxe6 Ng4 *(18...Qxe6)* 19.Qg3 Qxe6 20.Nf3 Rbe8 21.Bd2 Nge5 *(21...Nce5 22.Nd4±)* 22.Nxe5 Nxe5 23.Be3 *(23.Rae1 Qg4=)* 23...Bxe3 24.Qxe3 Qg4 25.h3 Qc4
A1) 26.Qd2?! Rf3 27.Ra3 Rxh3 28.Re1 *(28.Rfa1)* 28...Rh4 29.Bb3 Qf4 30.Bxd5+ Kg7→ 31.Qxf4?? Nf3+;
A2) 26.Qg3 d4 27.Ra3 Kh8 28.cxd4 Qxd4 29.Re3±;
B) 17.Nxe6 Ng4 18.Qg3 Qxe6 19.Nf3 Rbe8 20.Bd2 Bd6⇄ ½-½ Sokolov,A (2585)-Skembris,S (2470)/Bar 1997/ ½-½]

16.Qg3
[16.Qe2 Qd6 17.Nxe6 Qxe6 18.Kh1 Rfe8 19.f3 c6 20.Bc2 Qf7 ½-½ (20) Smirin,I (2644)-Golod,V (2573) Skopje 2014]

16...Qd6 17.Bc2
[Wedberg 17.Ndf3 N Nxf3+ 18.gxf3 Bf5 19.Qxd6 *(19.Bf4 Qd7 20.Bxc7 Rbc8 21.Be5 h6 22.Ne4 Bxe4 23.Bxf6 Rxf6 24.fxe4 Rcf8→)* 19...Bxd6 20.Ne4 b4 *(20...Bxe4 21.fxe4 c6 22.Bg5±)* 21.Nxf6+ Rxf6 22.Bxd5+ Be6 23.Bxe6+ Rxe6= ½-½ Mortensen,E-Ernst,T/Reykjavik zt 1995 (43)]

17...Bd7
[17...Bg4 18.Nb3 Nh5 19.Bxh7+ Kh8 20.Qh4 Bb6 21.Nd4 g6 22.h3 Bd7 23.Nde6 Bxe6 24.Bxg6 Nxg6 25.Qxh5+ Kg7 26.Qh7+ Kf6 27.Nf3± Stolz,M-Comp Mephisto Vancouver/Muenster op 1991/1-0 (66)]

18.Nb3 Bb6 19.Bf4
[19.Nd4 h6 20.Bf4 Bxd4 21.cxd4 Nh5 22.Bxe5 Nxg3 23.Bxd6 Ne2+ 24.Kh1 cxd6∓ 0-1 (66) Sokolov,A (2580)-Sulskis,S (2485) Geneve 1998]

19...Rbe8 20.Nd4 Nh5 21.Bxe5 Rxe5 22.Bxh7+ Kh8 23.Qh4 g6
[23...Qh6?! 24.Ndf3 Ree8 25.Rfe1 Rxe1+ *(25...Rf4 26.Rxe8+ Bxe8 27.Ra8 Qc6 28.Qxh5+-)* 26.Rxe1 Nf6 27.Bc2± *(27.Bd3* Sokolov,A *⌓ Kg8 28.Qxh6 gxh6 29.Ne6±)* 27...Kg8 28.Re7? *(28.Qxh6* Sokolov,A *gxh6 29.Ne6±)* 28...Qxh4 29.Nxh4± 1-0 (61) Sokolov,A-Timman,J/Belfort WCup 1988]

24.f4
[24.Ra8 Timman,J Rxa8 25.Nf7+ Kxh7 26.Nxd6 cxd6 27.g4 Bd8∓]
[24.Rfe1 Timman,J Rxe1+ *(24...Rxg5 25.Qxg5 Kxh7 26.Qe7+ Kg8 27.Qxd6 cxd6 28.Re7±)* 25.Rxe1 Rf4-+]

24...Ref5!?
[24...Rxg5 25.Qxg5 Kxh7 26.Rae1? *(26.f5 Rxf5 27.Rxf5 Bxf5 28.g4 Qe5 29.gxf5 Bxd4+ 30.cxd4 Qxd4+ 31.Kh1 Qe4+=* Timman,J *)* 26...Ng7!-+ Sokolov,A-Timman,J/Reykjavik 1988' (48)]

25.Bxg6 ½-½ Sax,G-Flear,G/Athens 1999/ (25) Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.Qd3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[53] **10.Be3** Nxb3 11.axb3 Bg4
[11...Be7 12.Nbd2 *(12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 0-0 14.Nc3 f6 15.f4 fxe5 16.fxe5 Rxf1+ 17.Kxf1 Bb4 18.Kg1 Bxc3 19.bxc3 a5 20.Qd3 Qd7 21.Bc1 Bf5*

22.Qd2 h6 23.Ba3 Ra6∓ 0-1 (62) Ghinda,M (2445)-Jussupow,A (2555) Dubai 1986 *)* 12...Bg4 13.Qc2 Qd7 14.Bg5 Bf5 15.Qd1 Bxg5 16.Nxg5 0-0 17.Re1 Rfd8 18.Ngf3 d4 19.Qc1 a5 20.Ne4 Bxe4 21.Rxe4 Qd5 22.Re1 d3∓ 1-0 (29) Timman,J (2630)-Jussupow,A (2635) Tilburg 1987]

12.h3

[12.Bf4 Be7 13.Na3 0-0 14.h3 Bh5 15.Nc2 Qd7 16.Ne3 Rfd8 17.g4 Bg6 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 c5 20.Qd2 c4∓ 1-0 (33) King,D (2495)-Krasenkow,M (2505) Palma de Mallorca 1989]

12...Bh5 13.Qe2 Be7 14.Rd1 Nxe5 15.g4 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 Bg6 17.Rxd5 Bd6 18.c4 bxc4 19.bxc4 Qe7 20.Nc3 0-0 21.Rad1 Rab8 22.R5d2= 0-1 (30) Zaichik,G (2495)-Tukmakov,V (2570) Tallinn 1988

10.Bg5 Qd7 11.h3 h6 12.Be3 g5 13.Nd4 Rg8 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Bc2 ½-½ (15) Mokry,K (2490)-Hort,V (2560) Reggio Emilia 1985

[54] **15.Bc2** f5 16.b3 Nd6 17.Ba3 Nce4 18.Nd2 0-0 19.Nf3 c5 20.Qe3 Rac8 21.Rac1 a5-+ 0-1 (30) Peters,J (2475)-Kortschnoj,V (2695) Lone Pine 1979

[55] **10...Nxb3?!** Of course he is not ready to repeat g6 against a better prepared opponent. Still, I would not make a bet that Nigel thinks Nxb3 is the best move here. He may intend to show the best move in game 6; classical match strategy.

11.Nxb3 Be7 12.h3?! This move appeared very few times in practice.

[12.Nfd4

A) 12...Nxe5? 13.Re1 Ng6 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Nd4!± *(15.Rxe6? 0-0∞)* 15...Nf8 *(15...e5 16.Ne6 Qd7 17.Qxd5!+-)* 16.Qg4 h5 17.Qxg7 Bf6 18.Qg3 Qd7 19.Bf4+- 0-0-0 20.a4 c5 21.Be5! *(21.axb5?! cxd4 22.cxd4 Qxb5 23.Rec1+ Kd7∞)* 21...h4 22.Qf4 Bxe5 23.Qxe5 Rh6 24.axb5 1-0 (24) Kuzmin,G (2550)-Beliavsky,A (2555) Baku 1977 *(24.axb5 axb5 25.Ra8+ Kb7 26.Rxd8 Qxd8 27.Qg7++-; 24.axb5 cxd4 25.Rxa6 Rh7 26.Rea1 Qxb5 27.Ra8+ Kd7 28.Rxd8+ Kxd8 29.Qd6+ Ke8 30.Ra8++-)*;

B) 12...Qd7 13.Nxc6 Qxc6 14.f4 Qd7 15.Be3 a5 16.a4 Bg4 17.Qd4 0-0 18.h3 Bf5 19.Qd1 bxa4 20.Nd4 a3 21.Nxf5 Qxf5 22.bxa3 Rfd8= ½ (38) So,W (2540)-Torre,E (2519) Manila 2008;

C) 12...Nxd4 13.cxd4

C1) 13...a5± 'N!?' Black obtained good counterplay:

C1a) 14.Qc2 So Black has weaknesses in the c-file.But he will get a strong grip on the white squares to compensate this. Qd7

C1a1) 15.Bd2 Bf5 16.Qc1 a4 17.Nc5 Qc6 18.Bb4 Qg6 19.Qc3 *(19.Qd2 0-0 20.Rac1 h5 21.Rc3 Rfe8 22.a3 h4 23.h3 Bxc5 24.Bxc5 Ra6 25.Bb4±* 1-0 (79) Shomoev,A (2565)-Torre,E (2468) Olongapo City 2015*)* 19...0-0 20.Rfe1 h5 21.Nd3 Bxd3 22.Bxe7 Rfe8 23.Re3 Be4 24.Rg3 Qe6 25.Bh4 Rac8 26.Qc5± 1-0 (56) Safarli,E (2607)-Sokolov,I (2641) St Petersburg 2010;

C1a2) 15.Be3 Bf5 16.Qc1 Zahar intends Bg5, which is a strong

positional threat. Exchanging the bishops would be positional suicide and f6 is (still) highly undesirable. h6 '!' 17.Nc5 Qc6 18.Qd1 Qg6 *(18...Bxc5?! 19.Rc1! Qg6 20.Rxc5 c6* is not the end of the world for Black, but a guarantee he will suffer.*)* 19.Rc1 0-0 20.Bf4 h5 Black starts with useful pawn moves. It is not at all easy to decide where to put the rooks. 21.f3 a4 22.Kh1 Rfe8 23.Qd2 c6 # Nigel seems to think that Nb7-d6 is not a problem. He could have prevented this with Ra7 and only then c6. 24.Nb7 Bd7 25.Rfe1 Bf8 26.Nd6± ½ (49) Efimenko,Z (2654)-Short,N (2706) Mukachevo 2009 He is going for a very small but safe advantage. *(26.h3* is a possible improvement. Even a well timed g4 may be an idea later. *)*;

C1b) 14.Be3 a4 15.Nc1 0-0 16.Nd3 Bf5 17.Rc1 Ra6 18.Qd2 Qd7 19.f3 h6N *(19...Rc6 20.Rxc6 Qxc6 21.Rc1 Qd7 22.Nb4 Bxb4 23.Qxb4 c6 24.Qc5±* ½ (63) Pruijssers,R (2483)-Van den Doel,E (2574) Netherlands 2010*)* 20.Nc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5± Rg6 22.Rf2 c6 23.Qb4 f6! 24.Bf4 fxe5 25.Bxe5± ½ (83) Mekhitarian,K (2559)-Milos,G (2589) Caxias do Sul 2016;

C2) 13...0-0 14.Bd2 '±' f6 15.exf6 *(15.Rc1 fxe5 16.dxe5 d4 17.Re1 Rc8 18.Ba5 d3 19.Rc6 Qd7 20.Rxa6 c5 21.Bb6 Qb7 22.Bxc5 Qxa6 23.Bxe7 Rf7*-+ 0-1 (30) Goloshchapov,A (2574)-Torre,E (2520) Leuven 2003*)* 15...Bxf6 16.Rc1 Rf7 17.Bf4 Bg5 18.Bxg5 Qxg5 19.Qd2± ½-½ Buervenich,S-Maria, L/Matinhos 1994/ (58)]

[12.Nbd4 ,but it looks less logical, because white should keep under control the c5 square. Nxd4 *(12...Qd7 13.Bg5 Bc5 14.Nxc6 Qxc6 15.Nd4 Qd7 16.Be3 Bb6 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Bxb6 cxb6 19.Qd4 Qc6 20.f4 g6 21.Rad1 Rc8 22.Qf2 0-0 23.Rd4±* 0-1 (56) Hou,Y (2527)-Zhang,P (2640) Merida 2008 *)*]

[12.Be3!±]

[12.Re1 0-0 13.Nfd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 a5 15.Be3 a4 16.Nc1 Qd7 17.Nd3 Bf5 18.Rc1 Ra6 19.Nf4 Rd8 20.Bd2 b4 21.Qf3 Be4 22.Qe2 Rb6 23.e6 fxe6 24.f3 1-0 (79) Friedel,J (2516)-Kaidanov,G (2595) Saint Louis 2009 Bf5=]

12...0-0 13.Be3

[Another game of Short went 13.Re1 a5 (Apparently, this is Short's favourite method in this line: by advancing the a-pawn at an early stage, he forces White to define his intentions on the queenside). *(13...Re8 14.Be3 a5 15.Bc5 a4 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Nbd4 Na7 18.Qe2 c5 19.Nxb5 Nxb5 20.Qxb5 Reb8 21.Qe2 Qb7 22.Qd3 Qxb2 23.Ng5 g6 24.Qg3±* ½ (38) Motylev,A (2676)-Reinderman,D (2549) Wijk aan Zee 2009*)* 14.a4 bxa4 15.Rxa4 Qd7 16.Nbd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Rfb8 18.Bd2 Rxb2 19.Rxa5 Rxa5 20.Bxa5 Bf5 21.Bc3 Rb6 22.Kh2 h6 23.Qa1 Rg6∓ Adams,M (2698)-Short,N (2707)/London 2009 (1/2, 43) We can notice certain similarity between the two games with Short on the black side: counterplay on light squares and some kingside pressure. The main difference is that in one game he placed his queen on g6 and in the other one - his rook.]

13...f6!
[In case of lazy 13...Re8 white can enjoy a comfortable advantage after 14.Bc5 a5 15.Qd3 a4 16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.Nc5 c6 18.b4 axb3 19.axb3 Rxa1 20.Rxa1 Qc7 21.b4 h6 22.Re1± 1-0 (29) Hracek,Z (2620)-Haba,P (2517) Czech Republic 2000]
14.Nbd4
[14.Nc5 Bf5⇄]
[14.Nfd4 Nxd4 15.Qxd4 c5 16.Qd2 Rc8! A strong move, overdefending the c5-pawn in order to ensure the mobility of the dark-squared bishop. 17.exf6 Rxf6 18.Bg5 Rg6 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Rae1 Qh4 Once again, Black has obtained strong pressure against the white kingside. Besides, he has an advantage in the centre. The queen can occupy this active square only because the c5-pawn is well defended. 21.Re3 d4 22.Rg3 Rxg3 23.fxg3 Qxg3 24.cxd4 Bxb3 25.axb3 cxd4 26.Qxd4 Qxb3∓ 0-1 (50) Efimenko,Z (2668)-Milos,G (2603) Khanty-Mansiysk 2009]
14...Nxd4 15.cxd4 fxe5 16.Nxe5 Bd6 17.Rc1?!
[Better is 17.Qd2 with an idea to activate white's passive ♗ via f4 or g5. Qh4 18.Bg5 Qh5 19.Bf4]
17...Qh4 18.Rc6?! Consequently continuing the wrong idea.
[Again 18.Qd2 should have been prefered. Qh5∓]
18...Rf6 19.Qd2 h6 20.Rfc1 Raf8 ½-½ Leitao,R (2571)-Sega,C (2291)/Sao Paulo 2002/ (27)

[56] **11.Qe2** Bg7 12.Nd4 Nxd4
[12...Nxe5 13.f4 Nc4 *(13...Ned3 14.f5 gxf5 15.Nxf5 Rg8 16.Bc2 Qg5 17.Nxg7+ Rxg7 18.Nf3 Nxc1 19.Raxc1 Qg4 20.g3 Ne4 21.Qg2 Qh5 22.Rfe1 0-0-0 23.Bxe4 dxe4 24.Rxe4 Bd5-+* 0-1 (71) Azarov,S (2667)-Sulskis,S (2595) Jurmala 2012*)* 14.f5 gxf5 15.Nxf5 Rg8 16.Nxc4 dxc4 17.Bc2 Nd3 18.Bh6↑ Bf8 19.Rad1 Qd5 20.Bxd3 cxd3 21.Rxd3 Qc6 22.Bxf8 Qb6+ 23.Kh1 Kxf8 24.Qf3 Re8 25.Nh6 Rg7 26.Rd7 Rb8 27.Nxf7 Bxd7 28.Nd8+ 1-0 (28) Karpov,A (2725)-Kortschnoj,V (2665) Baguio City 1978]
13.cxd4 Nb7 14.Bc2 c5 15.f4 cxd4 16.Nb3 Qb6 17.Qf2 0-0 18.Nxd4 Na5 19.Bd3 Rac8 20.Be3 Nc4 21.Bxc4 Rxc4 22.f5 gxf5 23.Nxf5+- 0-1 (66) Fishbein,A (2490)-Murey,J (2560) Moscow 1989
Other important games in this rare variation: **11.Re1** Nd3 12.Re3 Nxc1 13.Rxc1 Bh6 14.Rd3? '?' Postny.
[14.Re1=]
14...0-0 15.Qe2 Ne7 16.Rd1 c5∓ 1-0 Fedorchuk,S-Kortschnoj,V/Warsaw rapid 2002 (87) 17.Bc2 Bf5 18.Nf1 Bxd3 19.Bxd3 Qc8 20.h3 Nc6 21.N1h2 Re8 22.Bc2 Bg7 23.Rxd5 Qe6 24.Rxc5 Nxe5-+ 1-0 (87) Fedorchuk,S (2564)-Kortschnoj,V (2634) Warsaw 2002
11.Nd4 Nxe5 12.Qe2
[12.Bc2 Bg7 13.f4 Nc4 *(13...Ned3 14.b4 Nxb4 15.Ba3 Nxc2 16.Qxc2 Ne4*

17.Nxe4 dxe4 18.Rad1 Bd5 19.c4 bxc4 20.Nc6 Qd7 21.Ne7 c6 22.f5 Be5 23.f6 Rd8 1-0 (58) Fressinet,L (2640)-Murey,J (2487) Paris 2006 *24.Qa4=)*

A) The straightforward 14.f5?! is not good in view of Ne3 15.Qf3

A1) But not 15...Nxc2? 16.fxe6 Bxd4+ 17.cxd4 f5 18.dxc5 Nxa1 19.b4±;

A2) 15...Nxf1 leads to a position with compensation for missing material. 16.fxe6 Bxd4+ 17.cxd4 Nxe6 18.Kxf1 *(18.Nxf1!? Nxd4 19.Qe3+ Ne6 20.Qe5 0-0 21.Ne3⩱)* 18...Nxd4 19.Qc3 Qh4 *(19...Nxc2 20.Qxh8+ Kd7 21.Qxd8+ Rxd8 22.Rb1 c5∞)* 20.Nf3 Nxf3 21.Qe3+ Qe7 22.Qxf3∞ 0-1 Neumann,J-Brendel,V/Kiel 1978/EXT 2001 (43). (43);

A3) 15...Nxf5 16.Bxf5 gxf5 *(16...Bxf5 17.g4)* 17.Nxf5 Bxf5 18.Qxf5 0-0∓;

B) 14.Nxc4 '!' An obvious novelty. This is certainly better than the earlier played 14.f5?! 14...dxc4 '!' Preparing the retreat of the bishop to d5. *(* In case of *14...bxc4?! 15.f5* Black would have to make a favourable exchange for White on f5 destroying his pawn structure on the kingside. *gxf5 16.Nxf5 Be5 17.Qe2 Nd7 18.Bf4↑)* 15.f5

B1) 15...Bd5!

B1a) I planned to meet 16.Re1+ with Kf8∞ since now the rook is not longer on f1.;

B1b) White rejected 16.Qe2+!? Qe7 17.Qf2 in view of Nd7!? (Neelotpal) *(17...Be5* also deserves attention.*)* However the position after 18.Bf4 0-0-0! 19.Rae1 Ne5 20.Bg3 Rd6 21.f6 Bxf6 22.Qe3 Re8 23.Rxf6 Qxf6 24.Bxe5 Qh4!∞ remains very sharp.;

B1c) 16.Qe1+!? The main point of this check is that after Qe7 White's queen is protected and so he will be able to develop the bishop with a tempo to g5. See below.

B1c1) 16...Qe7 would allow White to demonstrate his idea. 17.Bg5 Qxe1 *(17...f6 18.fxg6 fxg5 19.Nf5 Qxe1 20.Raxe1+ Kd8 21.Nxg7 hxg6 22.Re5 c6 23.Rxg5± Nd3 24.b3!±)* 18.Raxe1+ Kd7 19.Re7+ Kc8 20.fxg6 hxg6 21.Bxg6± In both cases White is on top.;

B1c2) 16...Kd7! The king is trying to escape on the queenside. 17.Qg3 White transfers the queen to the c8-h3 diagonal from where he will be able to create the threat of a discovered check to the black king. Kc8! The king continues his run. *(*I saw also an alternative. *17...Bxd4+!? 18.cxd4 Nd3!∞* and White is just slightly better, but I wanted to keep my dark-squared bishop and so 17...Kc8. *)* 18.Bg5

B1c21) It would be wiser to provoke the dark-squared bishop to f4 first and only then Qd7 and White doesn't have the same strong idea he applied in the game. 18...Qd6!

B1c211) With the king on c8 the move 19.Qh3 is not especially dangerous for Black. Qd7 *(19...Kb7!? 20.f6 Bf8)* 20.Rae1 f6 21.Bd2 Kb7∞ and a position with mutual chances arises.;

B1c212) 19.Bf4 Qd7;

B1c22) 18...Qd7?! An inaccuracy. 19.Rae1! With the white bishop

on f4 White wouldn't create the threat of Re7. *(19.a4 Nxa4!∞)* 19...f6! The only logical way to prevent Re7. 20.Bc1 *(20.fxg6* looks dangerous for Black, but in fact reaches nothing. *fxg5 21.Bf5 Bxd4+ 22.cxd4 Ne6 23.Qe5 Kb7∓* and the arising rook endgame is slightly better for Black.*)* 20...g5 A necessity. Otherwise White wins the g6-pawn and gets the f5-square for his pieces.

B1c221) 21.Re6!? deserves attention. Kb7 22.Rfe1 Bf8 23.Rxf6 Bd6⇄;

B1c222) However the best was 21.Ne6!

B1c2221) 21...Nxe6 22.fxe6 Qe7 *(22...Bxe6? 23.Rxe6! ⩲Qxe6 24.Bf5+-)* 23.Be4± *(23.Bf5!?)*;

B1c2222) 21...Bf8 22.Rd1! c6 23.Qf2! and White is better.;

B1c223) 21.b4?! cxb3 *(*In case of *21...Nd3 22.Bxd3 cxd3 23.Qxd3* It's not easy for Black to solve the problem of the dark-squared bishop.*)* 22.axb3 Bf8! Now the bishop enters the game. 23.Ba3? White misses a simple tactical blow, but the position still remains sharp. *(23.b4!?* chasing the knight to a passive position on b7 was better. *Bd6 24.Qe3 Nb7 25.Be4 Be5 26.Rd1↑)* 23...Nxb3! 24.Bxb3 *(24.Bxf8 Nxd4 25.cxd4 Rxf8∓* is better for Black who has two extra pawns.*)* 24...Bxa3∓ 0-1 (41) Neelotpal,D (2467)-Mikhalevski,V (2572) Port Erin 2005;

B2) 15...gxf5 '?' is dangerous in view of 16.Nxe6 '!' Nxe6 *(16...fxe6?* loses on the spot to *17.Qh5++-)* 17.Qh5 *(17.Qf3→* with a dangerous initiative.*)* 17...Qd6 18.Bxf5 h6 19.Be3 0-0-0 20.Qxf7 Rhe8 21.Qxg7 1-0 (21) Nijboer,F (2584)-Sokolov,I (2676) Hilversum 2006]

12...Ned3 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Bc2 Nxc1 15.Raxc1 Qd6 16.Rfe1 Bh6 17.Rcd1 0-0 18.a4

[18.b4 Nd7 19.Qxe6+ Qxe6 20.Rxe6 Rfe8 21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 22.Nf3 Nb6 23.Kf1 Bg7 24.Nd4 Bf6 25.g3 Kf7 ½-½ (25) Smirin,I (2560)-Murey,J (2440) Tel Aviv 1991]

18...Nd7 19.Qxe6+ Qxe6 20.Rxe6 Rfe8= ½-½ Smirin,I-Murey,J/Tel Aviv 1991/ (30)

[57] The immediate **11...Nd7** is interesting. The point is that the knight now doesn't get under the white pawn after Nd4 Nxd4 exd4 and moreover he can come with the immediate c5 using a tempo he saved by not playing Bg7. 12.Nb3 Bg7 13.Bg5 Qc8 14.Nfd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4

[15.cxd4!?]

15...c5 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.f4 0-0 18.h4 Qe8 19.h5 gxh5 20.Rf3

[20.Qb1!↑]

20...h6 21.Bh4 c4± 0-1 Fercec,N-Murey,J/Pula 2002/CBM 088 ext (43)

[58] **12.Nd4** Qd7 13.f4 Bg4 14.Qe1 Nxd4 15.cxd4 Ne6 16.Nb3 a5 17.h3 Bf5 18.Bxf5 gxf5 19.Be3 a4 20.Nd2 Bf8 21.Nf3 Be7 22.Qb1 Nd8 23.Qc2±

1-0 (38) Almasi,Z (2691)-Marin,M (2551) Reggio Emilia 2008

[59] **12...0-0** 13.Nb3 Ne4
[13...Nd7 14.Bg5 Qc8 15.Bf4 Ne7 16.Qd2 c5 17.Bh6 Qc6 18.Qg5 Rfe8 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.h4 a5 21.a4 h6 22.Qf4 Reb8 23.Nbd2 b4 24.c4 b3 25.Bxb3 Rb4 0-1 (52) Efimenko,Z (2654)-Short,N (2706) Mukachevo 2009 26.h5±]
14.Bf4 Bg4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Rxe4 Re8 17.Qxd8 Raxd8 18.Nfd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Bf5 20.Ree1 a5 21.Be3 Bf8 22.Nxa5 Ra8 23.Nb3 Be6 24.Rec1± ½- (49) ½ (49) Yeletsky,I (2491)-Zakhartsov,V (2523) Khanty-Mansiysk 2022

[60] **13.Nd4!** Ndxe5 Kortschnoj
[13...Nxd4 14.cxd4 c5 15.Nf3 *(15.f4* Kortschnoj*)* 15...Bg4 16.Bb3 c4 17.Bc2 0-0 18.h3 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Nb8 20.Be3 Nc6 21.Qg3 f6⇄ 22.f4 Nb4 23.Bb1 fxe5 24.fxe5 Qc7 25.a3 Nc6 26.Bc2 b4 27.axb4 Nxb4 28.Bb1 ½-½ (28) Almasi,Z (2676)-Kortschnoj,V (2632) Budapest 2003]
14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.f4 Nf7 16.Rxe6+ Ne7 17.Qe2 white has a clear edge. and White has a clear edge.
13.Nf1 Ncxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.f4 Nc4 16.f5 gxf5 17.Qh5 Qf6 18.Bxf5 Kd7 19.Ng3 h6 20.Bxe6+ fxe6 21.Rf1 Qe5 22.Qf7+ Kc6 23.Bf4 Raf8 24.Qxf8 Bxf8
[24...Rxf8!? 25.Bxe5 Rxf1+ 26.Kxf1 Bxe5⩲]
25.Bxe5 Nxe5 26.Rae1 Bc5+ 27.Kh1 Kd6 28.h3 0-1 Rogovoi,M-Petrov,A/Tallinn 2001/CBM 083 ext (48) and White is better.
[28.b4! Bb6 29.Rf6! Ke7 30.Nh5!±]

[61] **15.f4** Nc4
[15...Nc6!? Kortschnoj]
16.f5 gxf5 17.Qh5
[17.Bxf5 0-0 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.Rxe6 Qh4 with strong counterattack.]
17...0-0 18.g4 Logical attacking continuation. On the other hand white's king is unsafe now as well.
[18.Nd4?! Bxd4+ 19.cxd4 Qf6∓]
18...Bc8! Very strong and flexible retreat. Kortschnoj: 'The threat g4xf5 + f5-f6 is worrysome, but it is a pity to move back to c8 the already developed piece. More subtle was 18... ♖e8 19.gf ♗d7. By the way, with the knight on c6 (instead of c4) black would have had a more active reply: 18...d4! (19.gxf5 d3!) '
[18...Re8 Kortschnoj 19.gxf5 Bd7]
19.Nd4 Kortschnoj: 'Interesting way to run an assault against the black king. Otherwise after 19.gxf5 ♗f6 white would not have much on the king side.'
[19.gxf5 Bf6! and white's attack is coming to an end, while his king is quite exposed.]
19...Bxd4+ Kortschnoj: 'The only move.'

[19...Nd6 was bad because of 20.Nc6!]
20.cxd4 Kh8!
[Dangerous for black is 20...Qf6 21.Bh6 Qxd4+ 22.Kh1]
21.gxf5 ½-½ Baramidze,D (2470)-Belikov,V (2499)/Dortmund 2003/ (46) Ruy Lopez Open Variation-9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

62 **12.Ne4** '!?' The favourite move of Capablanca.I have found three games of him in this line and he won all of them. transposes to 12.Nb3 after , le coups jadis recommandé, il suivrait: 12...d3 '!'
[Winants: Après 12...dxc3 13.Nxc5 Bxc5 14.Be4 Qd7
A) 15.Qc2 Bd5 16.bxc3 Rd8 17.Bg5 Bxe4 18.Qxe4
A1) 18...Ne7 19.Nd4 *(19.Rfe1 Qd5 20.Qg4 Qe6 21.Qg3 Nf5 22.Qf4 Rd5 23.Qe4 0-0 24.g4 Ne7 25.Bxe7 Bxe7 26.Nd4 Qd7=* ½ (47) Tsydypov,Z (2533)-Yakubboev,N (2630) Vladivostok 2022 *; 19.Bxe7 Bxe7 20.Qb7 Qc8 21.Qc6+ Qd7 22.Qxa6 0-0 23.Nd4 Rb8 24.Qc6 Rfd8 25.Rfb1 Qd5 26.Qxd5 Rxd5 27.Nc6+-* Capablanca,J-Chajes,O/New York Rice prel (04)/1916/1-0 (60)*)* 19...0-0 20.Bxe7 Bxe7 21.Nc6 Rde8 22.Rad1 Qe6 23.Qd5 Ba3 24.f4 f6 25.Rf3 fxe5 26.fxe5 Qxd5 27.Rxd5= ½ (33) Nepomniachtchi,I (2782)-Abdusattorov,N (2633) Warsaw 2021;
A2) 18...Qd5 19.Qg4 Rd7 20.Bh4 Kf8 21.a4 h5 22.Qf5 b4 23.cxb4 Nxb4 24.Rad1 1-0 (24) Santos Latasa,J (2675)-Anand,V (2756) Leon 2022;
B) 15.Bg5 h6 16.Qc2 hxg5 *(16...Bd5 17.Rad1 Nb4 18.Qxc3 Bf8 19.e6 Qd6 20.exf7+ Kxf7 21.Ne5+ Kg8 22.Rxd5 Nxd5 23.Qf3 Qxe5 24.Bxd5+ Kh7 25.Be4+ Qxe4 26.Qxe4+ g6 27.Qxa8* 1-0 (27) Brkic,A (2607)-Sahidi,S (2432) Terme Catez 2022*)* 17.Rad1 Nb4 18.Qxc3 Bxf2+ 19.Kxf2 Nd5 20.Qc5 c6 21.Nxg5 Rh5 22.Nf3 Qa7 23.Rc1 Ne7 24.b3 Qxc5+ *(24...Bd5 25.Bxd5 cxd5 26.h4 Rh6 27.Qxa7 Rxa7 28.g4± ½* (54) Nepomniachtchi,I (2798)-Abdusattorov,N (2646) Warsaw 2021*)* 25.Rxc5 Rc8 *(25...Rd8 26.Rfc1 Bd5 27.Bxd5 Nxd5 28.g4 Rh3 29.Rxc6 Nf4=* 0-1 (62) Navara,D (2700)-Abdusattorov,N (2651) Belgrade 2022*)* 26.Rfc1 Kd7 27.Rd1+ Kc7 28.Rd6 Bg4 29.Bxc6 Rxe5 30.Rdd5 Rxd5 31.Bxd5+**±** 1-0 (65) Shevchenko,K (2649)-Sindarov,J (2654) Jerusalem 2022;
C) 15.bxc3 Winants: 'les Blancs détiendraient l'avantage comme l'ont démontré deux parties entre Capablanca et Chajes jouées à New York en 1915 et 1916.'
15...Rd8 16.Qxd7+ *(16.Qc2 Ne7 17.Bg5 h6 18.Rfd1 Qc8 19.Bxe7 Rxd1+ 20.Rxd1 Kxe7 21.Nd4 Re8 22.Bf3+-* 1-0 (36) Nakamura,H (2736)-Carlsen,M (2847) chess24.com INT 2021*)* 16...Bxd7 17.Rd1 *(17.e6 fxe6 18.Ng5 Ne7 19.Nxh7 Bd6 20.g3 Bc6 21.Bxc6+ Nxc6 22.Ng5 Ke7 23.Re1±* ½ (71) Nijboer,F (2567)-Ernst,S (2572) Eindhoven 2010 *)* 17...Ne7 *(17...Nb8 18.Nd4 Be7 19.Be3 0-0 20.Rd2 c5 21.Nb3 Rc8 22.Rad1±* 1-0 Capablanca, J-Hodges,A/New York Rice prel 1916 (40)*)* 18.Nd4 h6 19.Nb3 Bb6 20.Ba3 h5 21.Rd3 Bg4 22.Rxd8+ Kxd8 23.Nc5= Capablanca,J-Chajes,O/New York 1915/1-0 (48)]

[12...Bd5 13.Nxc5 Bxc5 14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.cxd4 Bc4 16.Be4 Qd7 17.Re1 0-0 18.Qh5 g6 19.Qh4 f5 20.exf6 Rae8 21.Bh6 Rf7 22.b3+- 1-0 Tarrasch,S-Post,E/DSB-19.Kongress Mannheim (06)/1914 (27)]

13.Nxc5 Mikhalevski,V: 'Usually White plays this way if he doesn't want to take any chances and get a slightly better endgame.' transposes might lead to the same position as after 12.Nb3. The move in the text gives white another possibility, which took place in current game... leads to the identical position as in the game. 13...dxc2 Winants: 'reviendrait aux variantes précédentes.' Mikhalevski,V Winants: 'reviendrait aux variantes précédentes.' 14.Qxd8+ Rxd8 (l'idée de Daniliuk) Wedberg: 'This is a novelty as far as I know.' (l'idée de Daniliuk)

[14...Nxd8 15.Nxe6 Nxe6 16.Be3±]

15.Nxe6

[15.Nxa6 Winants: Ou même

A) 15...Bc4 16.Re1 b4 17.Nxb4 *(17.Nxc7+ Kd7 18.Nd2 Bxa2 19.Rxa2 Kxc7)* 17...Nxb4 18.cxb4 Bxb4 19.Bg5 Bxe1 20.Bxd8 Bxf2+ 21.Kxf2 Kxd8 22.Nd4 Re8 et les Noirs sont bien;

B) 15...Kd7!⇄ 16.Bg5 Ra8 17.Bxe7 Rxa6 18.Ba3 Bd5 19.Rac1 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Nxe5 21.Rxc2 Nc4]

15...fxe6 16.Be3

[16.Bf4 '?!' Rf8 17.Bg3 g5 18.h3 Rxf3 '!' 19.gxf3 b4 '∓' *(19...Rd2↑)* 20.Rfc1 Rd2 21.Kf1 bxc3 22.bxc3 Ba3∓ Cuijpers,F-Pieper Emden,C/BL2-W 8990 (1990)/1990/½-½ (56)]

16...Rd5

[16...0-0 17.Rac1 Rd5 18.c4 bxc4 19.Rxc2 Nxe5 20.Nxe5 Rxe5 21.Rxc4± ½-½ Nevanlinna,R-Tuomala,T/Jyvaskyla op 1994 (49)]

17.Rfc1 Looks a bit more accurate than 17.♖ac1 as it frees the f1-square for the white king and leaves option of a2-a4 open.

[17.c4!? '?!' Postny: 'This is the best way to create a problems for black in this endgame. Breaking black's pawn structure on the queenside, white is opening the "c" file for his rooks as well.' bxc4

A) 18.Rfc1 c3! *(18...Nb4 19.a3 Nd3 20.Rxc2 Kd7 '!' 21.Nd2 Nxb2 '!' 22.Nxc4 Nxc4 23.Rxc4 Rb8 24.Rac1 c5* 0-1 (42) Harikrishna,P (2753)-Ding,L (2766) Huaian 2016*)* 19.Rxc2 cxb2 20.Rxb2 0-0 21.Rc2 Rfd8 22.Kf1 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 Rxe5 24.Rxc7 Bf6;

B) 18.Rac1 Moving the other rook permits black to get rid of his weak pawn on c4 in exchange spoiling white's pawn structure.

B1) 18...Bc5 '?!' 19.Rxc2 Bxe3 20.fxe3 Nxe5 *(20...Rc5 21.Ng5 Nd8 22.Rd2 Rd5 23.Rfd1 Rxd2 24.Rxd2±* 1-0 Xie Jun-Qin Kanying/New Delhi 2000/ (41)*)* 21.Nxe5 Rxe5 22.Rxc4 c5 23.Ra4 *(23.b4 Ke7 24.bxc5 Rc8 25.c6 Rxe3 =)* 23...Rf8 24.Rxa6 Rxf1+ 25.Kxf1 Rxe3 26.Ra7 Kf8 27.Rc7± With very pleasant ending for white. with a very pleasant ending for White.;

B2) 18...Nb4!

B2a) 19.a3 Nd3 20.Rxc2 Kd7 21.Bd4 *(21.Bc1* was simpler.*)* 21...Rb8 22.Bc3 c5?! *(* A more principled move was to improve the position of the bishop: *22...Bc5 23.Nd2)* 23.Nd2 Nxe5 24.f4 *(* It was possible to get a strong knight versus a bishop: *24.Bxe5 Rxe5 25.Nxc4 Rd5 26.g3)* 24...Ng4 25.Nxc4± ½ (58) Hou,Y (2578)-Koneru,H (2600) Tirana 2011;

B2b) 19.Bd2 Nd3 20.Rxc2 Kd7 21.Rxc4 Nxb2 22.Rg4 g6 23.Bg5 Nd3 24.Bxe7 Kxe7∓ ½ (39) Ehlvest,J (2605)-Mikhalevski,V (2551) Philadelphia 2004;

B3) 18...Nxe5! '?!' Svidler,P-Kaidanov,G, Moscow Aeroflot op 2003/CBM94[Postny] 19.Nxe5 Rxe5 20.Rxc2 '±' 1-0 Svidler,P-Kaidanov,G/Moscow 2003/CBM 94 [Postny,E] (54)

B3a) 20...Re4?! 21.Rfc1± Kd7 *(21...Bf6 22.Rxc4 Rxc4 23.Rxc4 Bxb2 24.Rxc7 0-0 25.Kf1±)* 22.Rxc4 Rxc4 23.Rxc4 So white has got a better pawn structure and can start torturing black. If black will seat and wait of course. Unfortunately those times when the opponents didn't oppose any resistence had left. Now I had seating opposite an young, strong, experienced full of energy almost 26 hundreds Elo rating russian grandmaster. Why should he resign? Rb8! Yes he also knows very well that he will manage to swap the rooks then the position will become dead draw. At the same time the first rank is weakened and white has to take it into considerations too. 24.Bd4! After *(24.b3 Rb4 25.Rc2 a5 26.Bd2 Rd4 27.Kf1 a4* '=' = There will be nothing left from white's advantage. there will be nothing left from White's advantage. *)*

B3a1) 24...Bf6 25.b3 *(25.Kf1 c5 26.Bxf6 gxf6 27.b3±)* 25...Rb5 26.Be3 Ra5 27.Rc2± And white holds the status quo which until the king gets into the play is favorable for him. and White holds the status quo which until the king gets into the play is favorable for him.;

B3a2) 24...g6 I mainly considered 25.Bc3± 1-0 Bologan,V (2684)-Korneev,O (2600)/Mondariz Balneario 2002/ (75) *(25.b3 Rb4 =)*;

B3b) 20...Rb5! Postny: 'This is not a mistake, but a prelude...'

B3b1) 21.Rb1 Rb4

B3b11) 22.Bd2 Ra4 23.b3 *(23.a3 Kf7 24.Bc3 Rb8 25.Rd1 Bf6 26.Bxf6 Kxf6 =)* 23...cxb3 24.axb3 Rd4 25.Bc3 Rg4 26.h3 Rg5;

B3b12) 22.a3 Rb7 23.Rxc4 Bxa3 =;

B3b2) 21.Rxc4 Rxb2 *(21...Bd6±)* 22.Rxc7 It looks dangerous for black but he can hold. line. Who knows. It looks dangerous for Black but he can hold. Kf7

B3b21) 23.Bd4 Rxa2 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Rxe7+ Kf6 26.Rc7 h5 =;

B3b22) 23.a3 Ra2 *(23...Rhb8 24.Ra7 a5 25.Rxa5 e5 26.a4±)* 24.Bc5 Re8 25.Ra7 a5 26.Bxe7 Rxe7 27.Rxa5 Rc7 =;

B3b23) 23.Rd1 Re8 *(23...Rxa2 24.h4 Re8 25.Rdd7+-)* 24.h4 *(24.Bg5 Kf8)* 24...Kg6 25.Rdd7 *(25.Bg5 Bxg5 26.hxg5 Rg8 27.Rd6 Rxa2 28.Rxe6+ Kh5)* 25...Bf6 26.g4 h6 27.h5+ Kh7

28.g5 *(28.Rf7 Be5 29.Rc5 Bf6 30.Ra5 Rb4 31.f3 Rd8)* 28...hxg5 29.Bxg5 Rf8 30.f4 Rb1+ 31.Kg2 Ba1 32.h6 Kg6 33.hxg7 Rg8 34.Rc6 Bxg7 35.Rxe6+ Kf5 36.Rxa6 Rc8 37.Rd2 Rc3 38.Ra7 Bd4!;

B3b24) 23.g4! Re8 *(23...Rxa2? 24.Bc5 Re8 25.Rb1+-; 23...h5? 24.Rd1* and the black bishop is doomed.*)* 24.Rd1 Kg6 25.a4 Rb4 26.Rd4 a5 27.Rxb4 Bxb4 *(27...axb4? 28.a5 Bf6 29.a6 b3 30.a7 b2 31.Rb7+-* and the marsch of white's king to the queenside will decide the game, while the black king is out of the game.*)* 28.Kg2± 1-0 Svidler,P (2693)-Kaidanov,G (2629)/Moscow 2003/ (54)]

17...Nxe5

[17...0-0 18.c4 bxc4 19.Rxc2 Nxe5 20.Nxe5 Rxe5 21.Rxc4 Bd6 22.b3 Ra5 23.Rc2± 1-0 (49) Nisipeanu,L (2644)-Sattarov,B (2450) Abu Dhabi 2022]

18.Nxe5 Rxe5 19.Rxc2 '±' and White has a slight edge thanks to a better pawn structure. 1-0 Sutovsky,E-Sorokin,M, RUS-chT(6)/CBM107[Postny].

[19.Bd4!? 'N!?' after 8 years ago I suggested

A) 19...Rg5 20.Rxc2 Kf7 *(*With the rook on g5, *20...0-0?!* does not work properly: *21.Re2 Kf7 22.Rae1 c5 23.Rxe6!±* and Black misses the bishop's support for ...♗d6. *)*

A1) 21.Be3 Rh5N A somewhat mysterious novelty. For the previously played moves, see the comments to Carlsen,M (2844)-Ding Liren (2766) Wijk aan Zee NED 2016 [Marin] (½-½, 99) *(21...Rg4 22.b3 Rd8 23.g3 e5 24.Kg2 Rg6 25.c4 Rc6 26.Rac1 b4=* 1-0 (47) Adams,M (2724)-Smeets,J (2538) London 2007*; 21...Rd5 22.c4 bxc4 23.Rxc4 Bd6 24.b3 Rb8 25.Rac1 Ke7 26.Kf1±* 1-0 (50) Nisipeanu,L (2668)-Svetushkin,D (2604) Predeal 2007 *)*

A1a) 22.c4 looks harder to meet. Bd6 I imagine that this was the idea behind the novelty: Black gains a tempo by attacking h2. But this does not seem to be enough to level the chances completely. *(* The method used in the aforementioned Carlsen-Ding game *22...b4* does not work out so well here: *23.Rd1 Rd8 24.Rxd8 Bxd8 25.Rd2* The main problem is that after *Bg5* Black does not have enough pressure on e3 (as happened there with the rook on e5) thus losing a pawn after *26.Rd7+±)* 23.h3 *(23.g3!?* prevents ... ♖h4 but in the long run White may wish to avoid having his pawns on dark squares.*)* 23...Rh4 *(23...Rb8 24.b3±)* 24.Rac1 Rxc4 25.Rxc4 bxc4 26.Rxc4 Rb8 27.b3 Rb5 28.Kf1 Ra5 29.Rc2± Black does not seem to be in big danger yet, but with so many pawn islands he will most likely suffer for a long time.;

A1b) 22.a4?! White's desire to develop his a1-rook is understandable, but the last move helps Black getting rid of the potentially weak a6-pazn. 22...Rd8 23.axb5 axb5 24.g3 Bc5= ½ (33) Adams,M (2744)-So,W (2773) Wijk aan Zee 2016 Black has solved all his problems. His only weakness (e6) is easy to defend.;

A2) 21.a4 Rd5 22.axb5 axb5 23.g3 Rhd8± ½-½ Benjamin,J-Kaidanov,G/

San Diego 2004 (43) promised no advantage for White.;

B) 19...Re2 to Jan Willem de Jong, with the idea of provoking the exchange of one rook, after which Black's weaknesses are much easier to defend. Shortly after he played it in the Dutch KO championship, reaching a draw and qualifying for the next round. 20.Kf1 *(*The point is that *20.Bxg7?* runs into troubles: *Rg8 21.Kf1 Rd2 22.Bd4 Bg5! 23.h4 Bh6∓* with a very passive position for White. One of Black's main plans is transferring the g8-rook to the g-file and driving the enemy bishop away with the help of either the e- or the c-pawn.*)* 20...Rd2 21.Be3

B1) 21...Rd1+ 22.Rxd1 cxd1Q+ 23.Rxd1 Rf8 *(23...Bd6 24.Ke2 Rf8 25.c4 bxc4 26.Rc1±* 1-0 (66) Xiong,J (2672)-Coleman,T (2352) Burlingame 2019 *)* 24.Ke2 Rf5 25.Rd4 h5 26.h3 Bf6 27.Re4 Kd7 28.f4 Rd5= Pruijssers,R (2408)-De Jong,J (2445) Hilversum 2008 (½-½, 82);

B2) 21...Rd7 22.Rxc2 Bf6 23.c4 b4 24.Ke2 Kf7 25.Rd1 Rhd8 26.Rxd7+ Rxd7 27.b3± ½ (88) Ganguly,S (2614)-Das,A (2404) New Delhi 2009;

B3) 21...Rd5 22.Rxc2 0-0 leads to 19.♖:c2 with moves ♔f1 and ♖d5 included. 23.a4 Bd6± 24.g3 Kf7 25.axb5 axb5 26.Ra7± 1-0 Gruenfeld,Y-Greenfeld,A/Biel 1999 (57)]

19...0-0 The e6-pawn does not require the same attention as in the main line. besides, the pressure against f2 could be important since Black mainly plans ... ♗c5. the position is very close to a draw.

[19...Kf7

A) 20.a4 Rd8 *(20...Rb8 21.g3 Rb7 22.axb5 axb5 23.Ra6 c5 24.c4 bxc4 25.Ra4 Re4 26.Raxc4 Rxc4 27.Rxc4 Rb5=* 0-1 (69) Shirov,A (2647)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020*)* 21.g3 *(21.axb5 axb5 22.g3 Rd7 23.Ra7 Bc5 24.Bxc5 Rxc5 25.Rb7 Rdd5* ½-½ (25) Stevic,H (2563)-Bacrot,E (2669) Zagreb 2019*)* 21...Red5 22.Kg2 Bc5 23.Bxc5 Rxc5 24.axb5 axb5 25.Re2 Rd6 26.h4 h6 27.Rae1 Kf6 28.Re4 ½-½ Seibold,H-Pieper Emden,C/BL9091 1991;

B) 20.g3

B1) 20...Rd8 21.h4 Rd7 22.a4 *(22.Kg2 Rf5 23.a4 Bc5 24.Bxc5 Rxc5 25.axb5 axb5 26.Re2 g6 27.Ra6 Rd6 28.Ra7 Rd3 29.Ra6 Rd6* ½-½ (29) Predojevic,B (2584)-Stevic,H (2565) Neum 2022 *)* 22...Bc5 23.Bxc5 Rxc5 24.axb5 axb5 25.Re2 Rcd5 26.Ra6 R7d6 27.Ra7 Rd7 ½-½ (27) Ragger,M (2647)-Mamedyarov,S (2776) Germany 2022;

B2) 20...Bg5 21.Bxg5 Rxg5 22.a4 Rd8 23.axb5 axb5 24.Re2 *(24.Ra7 Rc5 25.Re2 Rd3 26.Kg2 h6 27.h4 Kf6 28.Ra6 Rd6 29.Ra8 Kf7 30.Rb8 Rd3 31.Rb7* ½-½ (31) Palac,M (2581)-Bosiocic,M (2553) Opatija 2015 *)* 24...Rgd5 25.Ra6 R8d6 26.Ra7 Rd7 27.Ra6 R7d6 28.Ra7 Rd7 29.Ra6 R7d6 ½-½ (29) Guseinov,G (2661)-Mamedyarov,S (2740) Chess.com INT 2023;

C) 20.Kf1 Rd8 21.c4 *(21.a4 Bg5 22.Bd4 Red5 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra7 R8d7 25.Ke2 c6 26.Rxd7+ Rxd7=* ½ (48) Warmerdam,M (2433)-Stevic,H

(2587) Skopje 2018*)* 21...b4 22.Rd2 Rxd2 23.Bxd2 a5 24.Re1 Rc5 25.Re4 Rc6 26.Ke2= ½ (65) Adams,M (2698)-Santos Latasa,J (2648) Germany 2022;

D) 20.c4 b4 *(20...Bd6 21.g3 Rb8 22.b3 a5 23.Rd1 bxc4 24.bxc4 Rd8 25.c5±* 1-0 (57) Jarmula,L (2434)-Niemann,H (2637) Reykjavik 2022*; 20...Rc8 21.Rd1 Rd8 22.Rxd8 Bxd8 23.Kf1 b4 24.b3* ½-½ (24) Bok,B (2497)-Ernst,S (2596) Maastricht 2011 *)*

D1) 21.Rd1 1-0 Sutovsky,E-Sorokin,M, RUS-chT Sochi 2005/ Rd8 '=' Winants: 'Avec égalité, Xie Jun-Z.Polgar Championnat du monde féminin, Jaen 1996' 22.Rxd8 Bxd8 So kann es laufen, wenn einer es bis zum Letzten versucht:

D1a) 23.Rd2 Ke8 *(23...Bf6 24.Kf1 Ke7 25.b3 Bg5 26.Bd4 Rf5 27.Rc2=* ½ (34) Bacrot,E (2697)-Sethuraman,S (2639) Caleta 2016 *)* 24.g3 *(24.Kf1 Bg5 25.Rd3 Bxe3 26.Rxe3 Rxe3 27.fxe3=* ½ (40) Kosintseva,N (2528)-Koneru,H (2589) Kazan 2012*)* 24...Bg5 25.Bxg5 Rxg5 26.Kg2 *(26.Kf1 Ra5 27.b3 Ra3 28.Ke2 c5 29.Kd1 a5=* ½ (41) Xiong,J (2618)-So,W (2773) Saint Louis 2016*)* 26...Ra5 27.b3 Re5 28.f4 Re3 29.Kf2 Rc3 30.Ke2 Ke7 31.Rd3 Rc2+ 32.Rd2 Rc3 33.Rd3 Rc2+ 34.Rd2 ½-½ (34) Blomqvist,E (2542)-Stevic,H (2581) Terme Catez 2021;

D1b) 23.Kf1 Bg5

D1b1) Sutovsky's favourite is 24.Ba7 Be7 *(24...h5 25.Bb8 Rc5 26.Ke2 Bf4 27.g3 Bd6 28.f4 g5 29.Ba7 Rf5 30.fxg5 Rxg5 31.Be3=* Sutovsky,E (2642)-Haba,P (2488) Austria 2015 (1-0, 56)*; 24...Rf5 25.Ke2 Ke8 26.Kd3 Kd7 27.f3 c5 28.Re2 Be7 29.Bb8* ½ (46) Xie,J (2530)-Polgar,Z (2550) Jaen 1996 *)*

D1b11) 25.Re2 Rf5 26.Be3 h5 *(26...Bc5 27.g4 Re5 28.Bf4 Rxe2 29.Kxe2 c6* Black holds this endgame.*)* 27.g3 g5? This is already a mistake, because ♙g5 will be fixed and become a target for White very soon. *(*Again, i don't see what was wrong with *27...Bc5)* 28.h3= 1-0 (45) Sutovsky,E (2665)-Sorokin,M (2599) Sochi 2005;

D1b12) 25.g3 Bc5 26.Bb8 Bb6 27.c5 Rxc5 28.Rxc5 Bxc5 29.Bxc7= ½ (50) Muzychuk,A (2522)-Muzychuk,M (2523) Kolkata 2022;

D1b2) 24.Ke2 Bxe3 25.fxe3 Ke7 26.b3 a5 27.a4 bxa3 28.Ra2 Rg5 29.Kf3 Rf5+ 30.Ke2 Rg5 31.Kf3 ½-½ (31) Borisek,J (2568)-Sebenik,M (2516) Slovenia 2014;

D1b3) 24.Bd4 Ra5 25.b3 Bf6 *(25...e5 26.Ba7 e4 27.Ke2 Ke6 28.g3 h5 29.h4 Be7=* ½ (40) Volokitin,A (2634)-Brkic,A (2565) Austria 2019 *)* 26.Be3

D1b31) 26...h5 27.Ke2 g5 28.Kf3 Rf5+ 29.Ke2 g4 30.Rd2 Ke7 31.Rd3= 1-0 (91) Kobalia,M (2614)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020;

D1b32) 26...Rh5 27.h3 a5 28.Ke2 a4?! 29.Kd3 Ke8 *(29...axb3 30.axb3 Ke8 31.Bd2 Be7 32.Ra2)* 30.bxa4!? Ra5 31.c5**±**

1-0 (56) Potkin,V (2556)-Amin,B (2453) Abu Dhabi 2006;

D1b33) 26...Bg5 27.Ba7 *(27.f4 Be7 28.g4* White has gained kingside space, but his pawns are vulnerable to exchanges, helping Black to get rid of some of his weaknesses. *h5 29.h3 g6* Of course it would not make sense to open the h-file in a moment when the white rook could be transferred to it along the second rank. *30.Ke2 hxg4 31.hxg4 e5±* ½ (99) Carlsen,M (2844)-Ding,L (2766) Wijk aan Zee 2016 *)* 27...Ra3 28.Bb8 Bd8 29.Ba7 a5 30.Bc5 Be7∓ ½ (67) Anand,V (2751)-Mamedyarov,S (2759) Stavanger 2022 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-11.Bc2 d4 12.Ne4 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik];

D2) 21.Bf4 The idea behind the move is not very clear to me. Probably Kharlov was trying to provoke g5, which however doesn't look like a big concession. In any case it's not clear why White deviates from 21.Rd1.

D2a) 21...Ra5?! is dubious because of the simple 22.b3!? *(22.Bxc7?!* leads to equality after *Rxa2! 23.Rxa2 b3 24.Ra3! Bxa3 25.Rc3 Bxb2 26.Rxb3 Rc8=)*;

D2b) 21...Re4 22.g3 This way White creates a threat of 23.Rd1 with f3 to follow. *(*Exchange of the c-pawns after *22.Bxc7? Rc8 23.f3 Rd4 24.Be5 Rdxc4∓* would certainly be in Black's favour.*)* 22...Rd8! Black takes control over the open d-file. *(*The immediate *22...g5?* turns out to be a blunder in view of *23.f3 ⩲Rd4 24.Be5)* 23.Kg2 g5 *(23...c6 24.Be3; 23...Red4!?= 24.Bxc7 Rc8 25.Bf4 Rdxc4 ½-½* (25) Sadhwani,R (2628)-Santos Latasa, J (2656) Ciutadella de Menorca 2022*)* 24.Be3 White succeeded in provoking g5, but... Re5 25.h3 Bc5 26.Bxc5 Rxc5= ½-½ Kharlov,A (2619)-Sorokin,M (2567)/Kazan 2005/ (42) Black has fully equalized the position.]

[19...Rd5 20.c4 Rd7 21.cxb5 *(21.Kf1 Kf7 22.Ke2 Rhd8 23.cxb5 axb5 24.a4 bxa4 25.Rxa4 Rb8 26.Rac4 Rb7 27.g3 ½-½* (27) Azarov,S (2577)-Melkumyan, H (2653) Bad Wiessee 2016*)* 21...axb5 22.a4 bxa4 23.g3 *(23.Kf1 Kf7 24.Rxa4 Rb8 25.Rac4 c5 26.Bxc5 Bxc5 27.Rxc5 Rd1+ 28.Ke2 Rb1* ½ (34) Karjakin,S (2779)-Caruana,F (2804) Shamkir 2016 This game was played in the last round.*)* 23...Kf7 24.Rxa4 Rb8 25.Rf4+ Bf6 26.Rfc4 Rxb2 27.Rxc7 Rxc7 28.Rxc7+ Kg6 29.Kg2 h5 30.Rc6 Kf7 31.Rc7+ Kg6 ½-½ (31) Abasov,N (2632)-Bacrot,E (2671) Douglas 2019]

20.g3!? An attempt to keep the bishops in play at least for a while as the rook endgame seems to be drawish.

[20.c4 Bc5!= '!' The typical reaction. 21.cxb5 *(21.Bxc5 Rxc5 22.Rac1 Rxc4 23.Rxc4 bxc4 24.Rxc4 Rd8 25.g3 Rd2 26.Rb4 Kf7= ½* (53) Korneev,O (2594)-Anurag,M (2454) Skopje 2017*)* 21...Bxe3 22.fxe3 axb5 23.Rxc7 Rxe3 24.Rd1 h6 25.h3 Rf5 26.Rd2 Kh7 ½-½ Luther,T-Beckemeier,W/BL9091 1991/GER-chT (26)]

[20.a4 bxa4 *(20...Rd5 21.axb5 axb5 22.g3 Rfd8 23.Ra7 Bd6 24.Kg2 Rd7*

25.c4 bxc4 26.Rxc4± 1-0 (51) Shirov,A (2681)-Zlatin,A (2324) Chess.com INT 2022 *)* 21.Rxa4 Bc5 22.Re2 Rd8 23.Kf1 Rd1+ 24.Re1 Rxe1+ 25.Kxe1 Bxe3 26.fxe3 a5= Bologan,V (2695)-Giri,A (2730) Germany 2013 (½-½, 33)]

[20.Bd4 fails to transpose below because the g7-pawn is defended, allowing the active Rd5 for instance 21.Re1 Kf7 22.Rce2 c5= 23.Rxe6? Bd6 24.Rxd6 Rxd6 25.Bxc5 Re8! 26.Be3□∓]

20...Bc5

[20...Bg5 21.Bxg5 Rxg5 22.c4 Rc5 23.Rac1 b4 24.Rd1 Rc6 25.b3 Rd6 26.Re1 Rf5 27.g4 Rf4 28.h3 h5= ½ (33) Baklan,V (2617)-Ernst,S (2581) Bad Wiessee 2011]

[20...Bf6 21.c4 *(21.a4 Rd5 22.axb5 axb5 23.Kg2 c5* ½-½ (23) Wells,P (2521)-Golod,V (2606) Plovdiv 2008*)* 21...Re4 22.cxb5 axb5 23.Rxc7 Ra8 24.a3 Bxb2 25.Rb1 Bxa3 26.Rxb5 Rb4= ½ (50) Zelcic,R (2589)-Svetushkin,D (2588) Dresden 2008]

21.Bf4

[21.Bxc5 Rxc5 22.Rd2 *(22.Re1 Kf7 23.Rce2 Rc6 24.Kg2 Rd8 25.h4 Rd5 26.g4 Rcd6=* ½ (48) Stellwagen,D (2585)-L'Ami,E (2594) Wijk aan Zee 2007 *)* 22...Rd5?! This unexpectedly causes Black some problems despite repairing his structure. *(22...Rff5 23.a4 a5 24.axb5 Rxb5 25.Ra2 Rfd5)* 23.Rxd5 exd5 24.a4 Rd8 25.axb5 axb5 26.Kf1± d4?! 27.Rd1 d3 28.b4± Grigoryan,A (2580)-Petrosian,T (2604) Yerevan 2011 (½-½, 42)]

21...Ref5□ 22.Re1 g5 23.Be3 White has no choice and he will have to try making use of the only Black's weakness on e6 and a slightly better pawn structure on the queenside in rook endgame. 23...Bxe3 24.Rxe3 Kf7 25.Rce2 Re8± ½-½ Sutovsky,E (2587)-Krasenkow,M (2647)/Shenyang 1999/ (69) Postny: 'Black did not have real problems to hold this one.' Ruy Lopez Open Variation-16.Be3 Rd5 17.Rfc1 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

12.cxd4 '!?' Mikhalevski,V: 'White chooses a safe way to fight for advantage. His chances in the arising endgame are slightly higher.' 12...Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Nf3

[14.Qe2

A) 14...Bg4?! 15.Nf3 Qd5 *(15...Bxf3 16.Qxf3 0-0 17.Qg3 Rfe8 18.Rd1 Qc4 19.Bh6 Bf8 20.Rac1 Qe6 21.Bf4 Rac8 22.b4 Nd7 23.Bb3 Qf5 24.e6 fxe6 25.Rxd7 Bxb4 26.Qxg7#* 1-0 Mezera,L-Dostal,L/Plzen KB opJ-B 1997*)* 16.Rd1 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Qe6 18.f4 Rd8 19.Rxd8+ Bxd8 20.Be3 Be7 21.Rc1 0-0 22.Bb1 Qd5? 23.Qc2+- 1-0 Perez,J-Chapman,A/Dubai olm 1986 (28);

B) ⌓14...0-0 15.Kh1 f5 *(15...Bg4!?)* 16.f4 Rad8 17.h3 Nb7?! 18.Bb3 Bxb3 19.Nxb3 Qd3 20.Qf2 Bc5 21.Nxc5 Nxc5 22.Be3= 1-0 Romi,M-Handasyde,H/ Paris prel-9 1924 (35)]

14...Qxd1

[14...Qd7 15.Bg5 *(15.Be3 Rd8 16.Qb1 Bd5 17.Nd4 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Qg4+ 19.Kh1 Rxd4 20.f3 Qh4 21.Bxd4 Qxd4 22.Re1 g6 23.Be4 0-0 24.Qc2±* 1-0 (62) Kryvoruchko,Y (2689)-Inarkiev,E (2663) Mali Losinj 2021*)* 15...h6

16.Qxd7+ Nxd7 17.Bxe7 Kxe7 18.Rfe1 c5 19.Nd2 g5 20.h4 Rhg8 21.hxg5 hxg5 22.f3 c4 23.Kf2 Rad8 24.Nf1 Nc5∓ Quiroga,F-Fernandez,J/ARG-chB 1976/½-½ (53)]

[14...Qg4 15.h3 Qh5 16.Ng5 Qxd1 17.Rxd1 b4 18.Be3 Bxg5 19.Bxg5 c6 20.Be3 Nd7 21.f4 Bd5 22.Bb3 Bxb3 23.axb3± 1-0 Zieher,H-Bauer,P/BL8182 1982 (36)]

15.Rxd1 Bg4

[While the main alternative 15...0-0 85 and although the endgame is quite pleasant for White, getting a more tangible pull is difficult: was tested on the very top level in the following game: looks better

A) RR 16.Bg5 Bxg5 17.Nxg5 h6

A1) 18.Nxe6 Nxe6 19.Be4 *(19.g3 Rad8 20.Kg2 g5 21.Rac1 Rfe8 22.b4 Rd4 23.a3 Rxd1 24.Bxd1± 1-0 (52) Efimenko,Z (2636)-Lodici,L (2407) Antalya 2017)* 19...Rad8 20.g3 c5 21.f4 c4 22.Kf2 Nc5 23.Kf3 Rfe8 24.Bc6 Rf8 25.Be4 Rfe8 26.Bc6 Rf8 27.Be4 ½-½ (27) Xiong,J (2709)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020;

A2) 18.Ne4 Nxe4 19.Bxe4 Rad8 20.b4 Bxa2 21.f4 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 f6 23.Rd7 fxe5 24.fxe5 Rf4∓ 0-1 (45) Panchanathan,M (2462)-Ernst,S (2582) Maastricht 2009;

A3) 18.Bh7+ Kh8 19.Nxe6 Nxe6 20.Be4 Rad8 21.g3 *(21.Rac1 c5 22.b3 g5 23.g3 Kg7 24.Kg2 Rfe8 ½-½ (24) Stevic,H (2570)-Brkic,A (2621) Zagreb 2021)* 21...Rfe8 *(21...c5 22.f4 c4 23.Kf2 Nc5 24.Bc2 g6 25.Ke3 Kg7 26.Rd4 Rxd4 27.Kxd4± ½ (64) Niemann,H (2637)-Abdusattorov,N (2661) Chess.com INT 2022; 21...g5 22.Bd5 Kg7 23.b4 Rfe8 24.Kg2 Re7 25.Rac1 Red7 26.Bb3 Nd4 27.Rd3 Nxb3 28.Rxb3=* 1-0 (56) Xiong,J (2709)-Zhao,I (2347) Philadelphia 2021*)* 22.Bc6 Re7 23.a4 Nd4 24.axb5 axb5 25.Bxb5 Nf3+ 26.Kg2 Rb8!= ½-½ (27) Svidler,P-Kramnik,V/Dortmund GER 2004/ (27)# Black wins back a pawn and fully equalizes.;

B) Black was able to hold the draw easily after 16.Ng5 h6 17.Bh7+ *(17.Nxe6 Nxe6 18.Be3 Bg5 19.Bxg5 hxg5 20.Bb3 Rad8 21.Bxe6 fxe6 22.b4 Kh7 23.h3 Kg6 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rc1 Rd4∓ ½ (31) Vedmediuc,S (2437)-Brkic,A (2584) Baku 2016)* 17...Kh8 18.Nxe6 Nxe6

B1) 19.Be4 Rad8 20.Be3 Bg5 '!' 21.Bxg5 hxg5 22.Kf1 *(22.g3 Rfe8 23.Bc6 Re7 24.Rd5 Rxd5 25.Bxd5 Nd4 26.Rd1 c5= ½ (40) Timofeev,A (2658)-Movsesian,S (2642) Sarajevo 2007)* 22...g6 23.Rac1 *(23.Ke2 Kg7 24.g3 Rfe8 25.Ke3 Rxd1 26.Rxd1 Nc5= ½ (38) Efimenko,Z (2703)-Caruana,F (2712) Poikovsky 2011)* 23...Kg7 and Black succeeded to equalize. 24.g3 g4 25.Bd5 Rfe8 26.Bc6 Rh8 27.Kg2 Nd4= ½ (54) Anand, V (2769)-Greenfeld,A (2563) Haifa 2000;

B2) 19.Bf5 An attempt to improve upon Anand's play. 19...Rad8 20.Be3 Bg5 21.Bxg5 hxg5 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Kf1 c5 24.Rd6 Rxd6 25.exd6 Rd8 26.Rd1± ½-½ Baramidze,D-Belikov,V/Dortmund GER 2003/ (39);

C) 16.Be3 Rfd8 17.Rdc1 h6 RR 18.Nd4 *(18.Bxc5 Bxc5 19.Be4 Bd5*

20.Rxc5 50 *Bxe4* 63 Les deux adversaires ont joué rapidement l'ouverture *21.Rxc7 Bxf3 22.gxf3 Rd2=* ½ (55) Saric,I (2626)-Nielsen,P (2670) Aix les Bains 2011*)* 18...Bd5 19.f4 *(19.Bd1!?N Nd3 20.Rxc7 Bf8 21.e6 fxe6 22.Bg4 Re8 23.b3 Bd6 24.Rc2 Ne5 25.Be2 Be4 26.Rd2 Bb4 27.Rdd1 Bd5 28.Rac1 Rac8=* ½ (81) Hou,Y (2673)-Muzychuk,M (2554) Lvov 2016 *; 19.Nf5 Bf8 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Bd1 Bf8 22.Rxc7 Be6 23.Ne3 Rd2 24.Bc2 Rad8 25.h4 Re2=* ½ (37) Robson,R (2465)-Kaidanov,G (2595) Saint Louis 2009 *)* 19...Ne6 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Bg6 Rac8 22.Bc5 Kf8 23.Kf2 *(23.Bxe7+ Kxe7 24.Rc5 Bc4 25.b3 Bd3 26.Bxd3 Rxd3=* ½ (49) Hou,Y (2606)-Koneru,H (2610) Beijing 2012*)* 23...Bb7 24.Bxe7+ Kxe7 25.Rc2 c5 26.Ke3 c4 27.a4 Bd5 28.axb5 axb5 29.g4= ½ (54) So,W (2775)-Ding,L (2778) Shanghai 2016;

D) 16.Nd4 Rfd8 17.Be3 *(17.b4 Na4 18.Nc6 Rxd1+ 19.Bxd1 Bf8 20.Bf3 Re8 21.a3 Nb6 22.g3 h6 23.h4 g6 24.Bg2 Bg7 25.f4 f6 26.Bb2 fxe5 27.Bxe5 Nc4 28.Bxg7 Kxg7 29.a4 bxa4 30.Rxa4 Bg4⇄* ½ (43) Hou,Y (2578)-Koneru,H (2600) Tirana 2011 *)* 17...Bd5

D1) 18.Ne2 Ne6 19.f4 c5 20.f5 Nc7 21.Nc3 Rac8 22.Nxd5 Rxd5 23.Bf4 Rcd8 24.Kf1± ½ (69) Najer,E (2661)-Mamedyarov,S (2767) Warsaw 2021;

D2) 18.Nf5 Bf8 19.Nd6 *(19.Bg5 Rd7 20.Ne7+ Bxe7 21.Bxe7 Ne6 22.Be4 c6 23.Bxd5 Rxd5 24.Rxd5 cxd5 25.Rc1=* 0-1 (43) Svidler,P (2739)-Caruana,F (2670) Amsterdam 2009*; 19.f3 c6 20.Bf2 Re8 21.Re1 Nd7 22.f4 f6 23.Nd6 Red8 24.Nf5 fxe5 25.fxe5 Re8=* 0-1 (61) Kosintseva,T (2496)-Koneru,H (2607) Beijing 2013*; 19.Rd2 Ne6 20.a3 Bb7 21.Rad1 Rxd2 22.Rxd2 a5 23.Bb3 b4 24.axb4 axb4 25.f3 Ra5 26.f4=* ½ (32) Nijboer,F (2540)-Ernst,S (2589) Haaksbergen 2009 *)* 19...Bxg2 20.Nxf7 *(20.Bxc5 cxd6 21.exd6 Bf3 22.Rd2 g6 23.a4 Rac8 24.b4±* ½ (37) Volokitin,A (2672)-Sutovsky,E (2654) Poikovsky 2008 *)* 20...Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Bf3 22.Rd4 Ne6 23.Bb3 Nxd4 24.Nh6+ Kh8 25.Nf7+ Kg8 26.Nh6+ Kh8 27.Nf7+ ½-½ (27) Gharamian,T (2649)-Wagner,D (2569) Biel 2015;

D3) 18.Rdc1 Bf8 19.Ne2 Ne6 20.f4 c5 21.f5 Nd4 22.Nxd4 cxd4 23.Bxd4 Bxg2 24.Kxg2 Rxd4 25.Bb3± 1-0 (59) Leko,P (2744)-Johannessen, L (2519) Tromsoe 2013;

D4) 18.h4 Ne6 19.Nf5 Bf8 20.f3 a5 21.Ng3 a4 22.Be4 c6 23.f4 g6 24.Bxd5 cxd5∓ ½ (41) Lopez Martinez,J (2545)-Delorme,A (2483) Barcelona 2015;

D5) 18.f4 Bb7 19.Rac1 Bf8 20.f5 Rac8 21.e6 fxe6 22.Nxe6 Nxe6 23.fxe6 Bd6 24.Bb3+- ½ (55) Gholami,A (2422)-Lalith,B (2587) Doha 2016;

D6) 18.Rac1 Ne6

D6a) 19.Nf5 Bf8

D6a1) 20.a3 b4 *(20...Rd7 21.Nd6 c6 22.Ne4 Rad8 23.f4 c5 24.f5 Nd4 25.Nxc5 Bxc5 26.Bxd4 Bf3 27.Bxc5 Rxd1+ 28.Bxd1 Rxd1+ 29.Rxd1 Bxd1±* ½ (66) Vachier Lagrave,M (2723)-Wei,Y (2721) Leon 2015 *)* 21.axb4 Bxb4 22.Nd4 a5 23.f4 g6 24.f5 Nxd4 25.Bxd4 Bf3!?

26.gxf3 Rxd4= ½ (33) Vachier Lagrave,M (2785)-Sethuraman,S (2639) Caleta 2016;

D6a2) 20.Bb1 Bb7 *(20...Rd7 21.Nd6 c6 22.Ne4 Rad8 23.f4 Bxe4 24.Rxd7 Rxd7 25.Bxe4 c5 26.f5± 1-0 (47) Brkic,A (2604)-Bosiocic,M (2563) Sibenik 2015)* 21.f4 g6 *(21...Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Rd8 23.Rxd8 Nxd8 24.Kf2 Ne6 25.g4= ½ (86) Azarov,S (2577)-Pavlidis,A (2530) Czech Republic 2016)* 22.Ng3 Bh6 23.Rf1 c5 24.Ne4 Bxe4 25.Bxe4 Rac8 26.g3 Bf8 27.Rfd1 c4 28.Kf2 Nc5 29.Bxc5 Bxc5+ 30.Kf3 ½-½ (30) Azarov,S (2585)-Robson,R (2667) Chess.com INT 2019;

D6b) 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Bb3 Bxb3 21.axb3 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Rd8 23.Rxd8+ Bxd8 24.f4 Kf7 25.g4 g6 26.Kg2 Be7 27.Kf3 a5 28.Ke4 a4 29.bxa4 bxa4 ½-½ Marinkovic,S-Bodic,D/Cacak-B 1991]

[15...Nd7!? A novelty I found during the game. I had a feeling that the knight is doing nothing on c5. At the same time I would like to see my c-pawn occupies this square. Additionally I restrict activity of the f3-knight which is now tied to the e5-pawn. 16.Bf4 c5 Black connects the pawns and covers the d4-square. 17.Be4

A) 17...Rc8!? 18.Bb7 *(18.Ng5 Bxg5 19.Bxg5 Nxe5 20.Rd6 0-0 21.Rxa6 c4 22.Rd1 h6 23.Bf4 Rfd8 24.Rad6 Rxd6 25.Rxd6 Nd3 26.Bxd3 cxd3 27.Rxd3 Bxa2 ½-½ (27) Dominguez Perez,L (2647)-Bruzon Batista,L (2652) Santa Clara 2006)* 18...Rb8 19.Bxa6 0-0 *(*Also *19...Rb6!?* is interesting *20.Bc8 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Bxc8 22.Bxg7 Rg8 23.Be5 Bb7⩱)* 20.Ng5! *(20.Bg5 Bxg5 21.Nxg5 Nxe5 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Rd6 c4)* 20...Bxg5 21.Bxg5 c4! with chances for equality.;

B) 17...0-0-0 Fritz likes this move, but some GMs who took part in the post-mortem considered it to be too dangerous. 18.Ng5 Jonkman decided to trade one of the bishops which looks like a rather natural approach. Nb6?! An inaccuracy which allows White to seize initiative. My point was to sacrifice a pawn and to create some counterplay. *(*In case of correct *18...c4!* I wouldn't have problems to equalize. *)*

B1) It was possible to accept the challenge with 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8

B1a) Less clear is 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Bxh7 g5 22.Bg3 *(22.Be3 Nc4)* 22...Rd2 *(22...c4)* 23.b3 *(23.f4 gxf4 24.Bxf4 Rxb2)* 23...Nd5 and Black's counterplay shouldn't be underestinated.;

B1b) 20.Bxh7!? Na4 *(20...Bxa2 21.Bc2 Bd5 22.Rxa6 Kb7 23.Ra1 Nc4 24.b3 Nxe5 25.Bxe5 f6 26.Bc3 fxg5 27.Bxg7)* 21.b3 Nc3 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Be3;

B2) 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.b3! 0-1 Jonkman,H (2425)-Mikhalevski,V (2551)/ Kapuskasing 2004/ (39) White restricts mobility of my knight.]

[15...Rd8 '!?' This move was discussed in a number of correspondense chess games. Also here black was able to keep an equality. Current game is the first real test of the move in the OTB game and I have to admit that Black has passed it. Earlier White played

A) 16.Rxd8+ This move is a novelty and probably not the best one. Kxd8

17.Nd4 *(17.Be3!?* developing the bishop and keeping all the options open was a worthy alternative.*)* 17...Bd7 18.Nf5 White's idea is to exchange one of the bishops and then to exploit weaknesses along the c-file and the big a8-h1 diagonal. Bxf5 19.Bxf5 g6! Now White has to decide what to do with the bishop. Moving it away from the c8-h3 diagonal gives the c8-square for the black king, while staying on this diagonal means weakening of the d3-square. 20.Bg4

A1) I believe that Black could also play 20...Nd3 21.Bh6 Nxb2 22.Rb1 and now f5! Thanks to this move Black can play 20...Nd3. Otherwise the king gets under attack. *(22...Nc4? 23.Rd1++- ⧋Ke8 24.Bd7+ Kd8 25.Bxb5++-)* 23.Bf3 *(23.exf6? Bxf6* is good for Black.*)* 23...Ba3 *(23...Na4 24.Bb7 c5 25.Bxa6 Nc3 26.Rb2 b4 27.Rd2+ Kc7 28.Bc4±)* 24.e6 Nc4 with chances to hold the position.;

A2) 20...h5 21.Bf3

A2a) 21...Nd3 22.a4! *(22.Bb7 Kd7 23.Be3 Rb8 24.Rd1 Rxb7 25.Rxd3+ Ke6 26.f4 c5∓)* 22...Kd7 23.axb5 axb5 24.Be2 Nxe5 25.Bxb5+ c6=;

A2b) 21...Kc8= Freeing the way for the rook. 22.Be3 Rd8 *(* In case of immediate *22...Nd3* Black would have to deal with *23.a4 Nxe5 24.Be2* though even in this case the position is close to equality.*)* 23.Be2 Na4= ½ (30) Sutovsky,E (2665)-Kortschnoj,V (2619) Paks 2005 *(* And again White prepares to meet *23...Nd3* with *24.a4!)*;

B) 16.Nd4 Bg4 17.f3 but after Ne6 '!' Black doesn't seem to have any problems. *(17...Bd7?! 18.Be3 g6 19.Rac1 Ne6 20.Bb3±* 1-0 Agdestein,S-Fiedler,T/Hamburg 2002/ (45) *)*

B1) or 18.Nxe6 Rxd1+ 19.Bxd1 Bxe6 20.Be3 0-0 21.a4 Rb8 22.axb5 Rxb5 23.Rxa6 g6 24.Ra7 *(24.Bh6 Bd5 25.b3 Bb7 26.Ra2 Rxe5=)* 24...Rxe5 25.Kf2 Rb5 26.Be2 Rb4 ½-½ Sferle,M-Vosselman,J/ICCF Email 2002/ICCF Telechess CBM 94 (26) '!' 27.Rxc7 Bf6=;

B2) 18.Nxb5 Rxd1+ 19.Bxd1 Bc5+ 20.Kh1 axb5 21.fxg4 Bd4 22.a4 bxa4 23.Rxa4 Ke7 24.Bg5+ ½-½ Sabaev,S-Van Wieringen,C/ICCF Email 2001/ICCF Telechess (24). Kd7!?]

16.h3

[16.b4 Nd7 17.Bb2 Rd8 18.a3 0-0 19.Rd2? Bxf3 20.gxf3 Nxe5! 21.Re2 Nxf3+ 22.Kg2 Nh4+ 23.Kh3 *(23.Kg3 Ng6! 24.Bxg6 Bd6+)* 23...Rfe8 24.Rxe7 *(24.Rae1 Nf3-+)* 24...Rxe7 25.Kxh4 Re2-+ 0-1 Wets,G-Dridi,A/Gausdal 1986/ (30)]

[16.Be3 0-0

A) 17.h3! As strong as simple. Bxf3?! Exchanging the bishop Khalifman agrees with a long suffer.The strength of bishops pair shouldn't be underestimated. *(*I think Black should keep the bishop by means of *17...Bh5 18.Rd5 Ne6 19.Rd7 Rfe8±)* 18.gxf3 Strong mobile centre supported by bishops pair secures a better play.White's plan for next few moves is obvious.He plays f4,then brings

his king to f3 and prepare advance f5 or with the king on g2 f4-f5,then f2-f4 and king to f3.At the same time Black has no good options.

A1) 18...Rad8 19.f4 g6 20.Rac1 *(20.f5 gxf5 21.Bxf5 Ne6 22.f4 c5 23.b3 c4 24.bxc4 bxc4 25.Kf2± ½* (102) Laurent Paoli,P (2499)-Hamitevici, V (2502) Vandoeuvre 2022*)* 20...Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Ne6 22.Rd7 Bc5 23.Bb3 Bxe3 24.fxe3 Nc5 25.Rxc7 Nxb3 26.axb3 Rd8 ½ (32) Najer,E (2566)-Brunello,S (2641) Almaty 2022;

A2) 18...Rfd8 19.f4 g6 20.Kg2 *(* The same position by another moves order was reached in another game.The game continued *20.f5 gxf5 21.Bxf5 Ne6 22.f4 c5 23.Kf2 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Rd8 25.Rxd8+ Bxd8 26.Bxe6 fxe6 27.Bxc5±* 1-0 Konguvel,P-Sriram,J/Calcutta IND 2000 (54)*)* 20...Na4 From the one hand the text move is a very responsible decision as Black remains with a complex of weak pawns on the queen side,but from the other hand I don't see anything better.Black's suffering wasn't less when he had allowed a slow strengthening of White's position. From the one hand the text move is a very responsible decision as Black remains with a complex of weak pawns on the queen side,but from the other hand I don't see anything better. Black's suffering wasn't less when he had allowed a slow strengthening of White's position in Onischuk-Tong Yuanming,China 1998/CBM 66[Mikhalevski,V] 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Bxa4 bxa4 23.Rc1± 1-0 Leko,P (2701)-Khalifman,A (2628)/Budapest 2000/ (43) White is clearly better thanks to the better pawn structure and much more active king(♔g2-f3-e4);

B) 17.Rd4 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Rad8 19.Rad1 Ne6 20.Rd7 Rfe8 21.Kg2 Rxd7 22.Rxd7 a5 23.f4± 1-0 (31) Bisco,I-Kramarik,P/SVK-chT2 1995]

16...Bxf3? Only this move is a novelty,but probably a bad one.

[16...Bh5!? The idea of the move to play ♗g6 to exchange white-square bishops in order to weaken white squares in the white's camp. 17.b4 Ne6 18.Be4 Rd8 19.Rxd8+ Nxd8 20.Bd2 Bg6 21.Bd5 c6 22.Bb3 Ne6 23.a4 Bd3 24.Ne1 Nd4= ½-½ Rogovoi,M-Sepman,Y/St Petersburg 1996/ (60)]

17.gxf3 Now White is clearly better as Black can't prevent f2-f4-f5.The only way to do so has happened in the game .White just change "f" pawn and pair of bishops plus extra pawn in the centre guarantee an easy advantage. Onischuk-Tong Yuanming,China 1998/CBM 66[Mikhalevski,V] 17...g5 18.f4 gxf4 19.Bxf4± Rd8 20.Rxd8+ Kxd8 21.Rd1+ Kc8 22.Be3 Ne6 23.f4± 1-0 (30) Onischuk,A (2610)-Tong,Y (2505) Beijing 1998 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-11.Bc2 d4 12.cd4 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

12.Re1 0-0 13.Bb1 dxc3 14.bxc3 b4 15.Bb2 Qd7 16.Qc2 g6 17.Ne4 Bf5 18.Qc1 Nxe4 19.Bxe4 Bxe4 20.Rxe4 Qd5 21.Rf4 Rad8 22.h4 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 Qxe5 24.cxb4 Rd1+ 25.Qxd1 Qxf4= 0-1 (41) Antipov,M (2599)-Hakobyan,A (2626) Seattle 2023

[63] **12...dxc3** 13.bxc3

[13.Nbd4 Nxd4 14.Nxd4 cxb2 15.Bxb2 0-0 16.Nc6 Qe8 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7

18.Qh5 g6 19.Qh6 Bc4 20.Rfd1 Ne6 21.h4 Rfd8 22.Be4 Rab8-+ 0-1 (62) Donchenko,A (2660)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2021]

13...Qxd1 14.Rxd1 Na4

[14...0-0 15.Bg5 Nxb3 16.axb3 h6 17.Bxe7 Nxe7 18.b4 c5 19.Be4 Ra7 20.bxc5 Rc7 21.c6 Nxc6 22.Rxa6 Nb8 23.Rb6± 1-0 (36) Vachier Lagrave,M (2779)-Yu,Y (2738) Stavanger 2019]

15.Be4 Bd7 16.Rxd7 Kxd7 17.Bf5+ Ke8 18.Be4 Kd7 19.Bf5+ Ke8 20.Be4 Kd7 ½-½ (20) Nepomniachtchi,I (2789)-Carlsen,M (2847) chess24.com INT 2021

[64] **13...Bf5** 14.Nbd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bg6 16.f4 Be4 17.Be3 Qd5 18.Qd2 Na4 19.b3 Nb6 20.f5 c5 21.Nf3 Bxf5 22.Ne1 Bg6∓ 1-0 (35) Kovalev,V (2648)-Mikhalevski,V (2565) Lichess.org INT 2020

[65] **15.Be3** is more popular. is much more popular, from where the ♗ usually goes to d4. Black's far advanced ♙d3 will not survive for long, but black has time to create counterplay in the centre.

[15.b4 0-0 16.Re1

A) 16...a5 17.bxa5 Rxa5 18.Rxa5 Nxa5 19.Nd4 Bg6 20.Bxd3 Bxd3 21.Qxd3 c5 22.Qxb5 cxd4 23.Bd2± ½ (100) Moussard,J (2686)-Schroeder,J (2544) Germany 2022;

B) 16...Qd5?! was the first top game in 2009, 17.h3 Rfd8 18.g4! Be6 *(18...Bg6 19.Ba2 Qd7 20.Bf4±* and the threat of e5-e6 is very unpleasent.*)* 19.Re3± and now the d3-pawn is lost, Karjakin-Mamedyarov, Khanty-Mansiysk 2009. h5 20.Qxd3 *(*White could also play *20.Rxd3 Qc4 21.Qf1* with advantage, but the text move is good enough.*)* 20...Qxd3 *(20...g6 21.gxh5 Qb3 22.Qe4! Bd5 23.Bc2+-)* 21.Bxd3 hxg4 22.hxg4 Bd5 *(22...Bxg4 23.Be4 Bd7 24.Rd3 Be8 25.Rxd8 Rxd8 26.Be3±)* 23.Bc2?! Too deep! *(* I did not want to allow the rook to go to d1, but after the simple *23.Be4 Bxe4 24.Rxe4 Rd1+ 25.Kg2 g6 26.Re2* followed by ♖d2 or ♖c2 White has a big advantage.*)* 23...Bxf3 24.Rxf3 Nxe5 25.Rh3± 1-0 (52) Karjakin,S (2723)-Mamedyarov,S (2719) Khanty-Mansiysk 2009 Due to his two bishops White is still much better, but the material is equal now!;

C) 16...Qd7

C1) 17.Bf4 Rfd8

C1a) 18.h4 h6 19.Re3 a5 20.bxa5

C1a1) 20...Rxa5 21.Rxa5 Nxa5 22.Nd4 Nc4 *(22...Bxh4 23.e6 fxe6 24.Nxf5 exf5 25.Rxd3±* ½ (38) Perunovic,M (2627)-Lalith,B (2565) Warsaw 2016*)* 23.Nxf5 Nxe3 24.Nxe3 c5 25.b3 Bxh4 26.c4 Qd4 27.g3± 0-1 (48) Kasimdzhanov,R (2703)-Wei,Y (2694) Tashkent 2016;

C1a2) 20...Bc5 21.Re1 b4 22.a6 bxc3 23.bxc3 Bb6 24.Ra4 Qc8 25.Qd2 Rxa6 26.Rxa6 Qxa6= ½ (41) Sutovsky,E (2646)-Jojua,D (2581) Minsk 2017;

C1a3) 20...Nxa5 21.e6 fxe6 22.Ne5 Qd5 23.Qh5 Nc4 24.Rxa8

Rxa8 25.Qf7+ Kh8 26.Rg3± ½ (35) Safarli,E (2593)-Brkic,A (2600) Batumi 2019;

C1b) 18.h3

C1b1) 18...a5 '!?' 19.bxa5 Rxa5 20.Rxa5 Nxa5 21.Nd4

C1b11) 21...g5 '!' 22.Bxd3 *(22.b4 Nc4 23.Bc1 d2 24.Bxf5 dxe1Q+ 25.Qxe1 Qd5 26.e6 Qe5 27.exf7+ Kxf7 28.Be4 Re8 29.Nf3 Qe6 30.Nd4=* ½-½ (32) Svidler,P (2745)-Mamedyarov,S (2743) Reykjavik 2015*)* 22...Bxd3 23.Qxd3 gxf4 24.Qe4 Re8 25.Qxf4 Bf8 26.Re3 1-0 (37) Svidler,P (2723)-Yilmaz,M (2630) chess24.com INT 2020 h6=;

C1b12) 21...c5 22.e6 fxe6 23.Nxf5 exf5 24.Qxd3 Qxd3 25.Bxd3 Rxd3 26.Rxe7 Nc4 *(26...Rd5 27.Ra7 Nc6 28.Rb7 c4 29.Be3±* ½ (40) Puranik,A (2604)-Priasmoro,N (2502) Sitges 2021 *)* 27.Rb7 Nxb2 28.Rxb5= ½ (40) Narayanan,S (2673)-Vokhidov,S (2568) Jerusalem 2022;

C1b2) 18...Qc8 19.Bg3 Qd7 ½-½ (23) Karjakin,S (2753)-Wei,Y (2724) Heixiazi 2015;

C1b3) 18...h6 19.g4 Bg6 20.Ba2 Kh7 21.e6 fxe6 22.Bxe6 Qe8 23.Bxc7+- 1-0 (43) Vokhidov,S (2568)-Sattarov,B (2433) Chess.com INT 2022;

C1b4) 18...Kh8 19.Re3 a5 20.bxa5 Bc5 21.Re1 b4 22.a6 bxc3 23.bxc3 h6 24.Qd2± 1-0 (41) Saric,I (2668)-Santos Latasa,J (2677) Mayrhofen 2022;

C2) 17.Bg5

C2a) 17...Rfd8 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Re3 a5! 20.bxa5 Rxa5 21.Rxa5 Nxa5 22.Nd4 Bg6 23.e6 *(23.Ba2 Qe8!? 24.e6 Nc4 25.exf7+ Qxf7 26.Nxb5 Kh8=)* 23...Nc4 '⇄' *(23...c5!?)* 24.Rxd3 Re8?! *(⌓24...Rd6* **Δ** *25.exf7+ Kf8 26.Rh3 Bxb1 27.Qxb1 c5* and White already must bail out with *28.Rxh7 cxd4 29.Rh8+ Kxf7 30.Qf5+=)* 25.Rf3± ½- (42) ½ (42) Safarli,E (2660)-Nakamura,H (2772) Tromsoe 2013;

C2b) ⌓17...Bxg5! '!?' 18.Nxg5 h6= was easier and Black looks OK.;

C3) 17.h3

C3a) 17...Bg6 18.Bg5! *(* Four years ago Caruana already had a game with Black for *18.Ba2 Kh8 19.Bf4 a5 20.bxa5 Rxa5 21.b4 Ra4 22.Bb3 Rxa1 23.Qxa1 Nd8 24.Qa7 Ne6 25.Bd2±* 1-0 (64) Shirov,A (2723)-Caruana,F (2675) Wijk aan Zee 2010 *)* 18...Bxg5 19.Nxg5

C3a1) In the event of 19...Rfe8 , the engine suggests 20.e6! fxe6 21.Re3! What interesting play! h6 22.Nxe6! Qd6 23.Qg4 *(23.Ba2 Kh7⇄* with a very complicated middlegame*)* 23...Ne5 24.Rxe5 Qxe5 25.Qxg6 Qxe6 26.Qxe6+ *(26.Ba2??* is losing, because of *Qxa2! 27.Rxa2 d2-+* and suddenly Black is winning*)* 26...Rxe6 27.Ba2 Kf7 28.Re1 Rae8 29.Re3 d2 30.Rd3 Kf6 31.Bxe6 Kxe6 32.Rxd2± and finally White has a ♙ up in this ♖ endgame.;

C3a2) 19...a5 A typical reaction. Black simplifies the position on the queenside and he gets rid of the a6 weakness. On the other hand this move allows White's reply. 20.e6! fxe6 21.Nxe6 Rfe8 22.Nc5 *(22.Bxd3 Bxd3 23.Nc5 Rxe1+ 24.Qxe1 Qe7 25.Qxe7 Nxe7 26.Nxd3 Rd8 27.Ne5 axb4 28.cxb4* is a little bit similar to the game.*)* 22...Qd6 23.Bxd3 *(23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Bxd3* transposes to the game. *)* 23...Rxe1+ 24.Qxe1 Re8 25.Qd1 transposes to the game. axb4

C3a21) 26.Bxg6! was more exact Qxd1+ *(26...hxg6 27.Qxd6 cxd6 28.Nb7±)* 27.Rxd1 hxg6 28.Na6! and the position is more comfortable with White, but I think it will be also equal.;

C3a22) 26.cxb4 Bxd3 27.Qxd3 *(27.Nxd3 Nxb4 28.Qh5 Rf8* and Black can hold.*)* 27...Qxd3 28.Nxd3 Rd8= ½ (41) Caruana,F (2783)-Nakamura,H (2772) Shamkir 2014 Still White has a ♙ up, but du to his weak queenside ♙ Black should have enough compensation in this endgame.;

C3b) 17...Kh8 18.Bf4 a5 19.bxa5 b4 20.a6 bxc3 21.bxc3 f6 22.e6 Qd5 23.Nh4 g5 24.Nxf5 Qxf5 25.Bxc7+- 1-0 (36) Areshchenko,A (2661)-Bulmaga,I (2393) Abu Dhabi 2015;

C3c) 17...Rfd8

C3c1) 18.Re3 h5 *(18...Kh8 19.Ba2 Be6 20.Bb1 Bf5 21.Ba2 Be6 22.Bb1 Bf5* ½-½ (22) Naroditsky,D (2617)-Mamedyarov,S (2747) chess24.com INT 2022*)* 19.Ba2 Be6 20.Bb1 Bf5 21.Ba2 Be6 22.Bd2 g6 23.Bb1 Bf5 24.Ba2 Be6 25.Bxe6 Qxe6 26.Ne1 a5 27.Nxd3= ½ (85) Dominguez Perez,L (2745)-Mamedyarov,S (2757) Saint Louis 2022;

C3c2) 18.g4

C3c21) 18...Be6?! 19.Bf4 h5 20.Re3! Bxg4 21.Qxd3 *(21.Rxd3!?↑)* 21...Qxd3 22.Bxd3 Be6 Caruana,F (2808)-Mamedyarov,S (2736) Baku 2015 23.Ng5!± *(23.Kh2 Bd5 24.Rg1 a5 25.Bxb5 axb4 26.e6 fxe6 27.Bxc6 Bxc6 28.Ne5 Bd6∓* ½ (40) Caruana,F (2808)-Mamedyarov,S (2736) Baku 2015 *)*;

C3c22) 18...Bg6

C3c221) 19.Ba2 is the another possibility. Qc8 *(19...Kh8 20.Bf4 Rf8 21.Bg3 f5 22.exf6 Bxf6 23.Be6 Qd8 24.Re3 a5 25.h4 axb4 26.Rxa8 Qxa8 27.h5±* 1-0 (35) Saric,I (2660)-Al Sayed,M (2524) Biel 2016 *)*

C3c2211) 20.e6 f6 21.Nh4 a5 22.bxa5 Rxa5 23.b4 Ra6 24.Bf4 Qa8 25.Qd2 Qa7= Shirov,A (2689)-Mamedyarov,S (2743) Reykjavik 2015 26.Be3∞ *(26.Re3 Ra8 27.Nxg6 hxg6 28.Qxd3 Rxa2 29.Rxa2 Qxa2 30.Qxg6 Qd5∓* 0-1 (98) Shirov, A (2689)-Mamedyarov,S (2743) Reykjavik 2015 *)*;

C3c2212) 20.Bg5 a5 21.bxa5 Bxg5 22.Nxg5 Nxa5 *(22...d2*

23.Re2 Rxa5 24.b4 Ra4 25.e6 Qa8 26.exf7+ Kh8 27.Rxd2+- 1-0 (46) Ponomariov,R (2667)-Meskovs,N (2568) Skopje 2019*)* 23.Nxf7 *(23.Bxf7+ Bxf7 24.Nxf7 Kxf7 25.e6+ Kg8 26.e7 Re8 27.Qxd3 Nb7 28.Rxa8 Qxa8 29.Qxb5 Nd6=* Robson,N (2668)-Hartl,H (2477) email 2010*)* 23...Bxf7 24.e6 Nc4 25.exf7+ Kxf7 26.Qf3+ Kg8 27.Red1 Kh8 28.Rxd3 Rf8 29.Qe2 Qb7≅ ½, Chukanov,I (2396)-Boldysh,K (2402) email 2014;

C3c222) 19.Bf4

C3c2221) 19...Qc8 20.Ba2 a5 21.bxa5 Nxa5 22.e6 f6 is transposing to the text move.

C3c22211) 23.b4 Nc4 24.Bxc4 bxc4 25.Nd2 c5?! A dubious move, now White's b-pawn becomes very strong. *(25...Qb7!∞* was fine for Black!*)* 26.b5! Correct reply! Be8 27.Rxa8?! *(27.b6!* was more accurate *Bb5 28.Ra7!* and Black is in a big trouble.*)* 27...Qxa8 28.b6 Bc6?! A logical move, because Black wants to create a strong battery on the long diagonal. On the other hand objectively this is a weak move. *(28...Bb5* gives more practical chances, *29.Qa1 Qd5 30.Qa7 Bc6 31.f3 Kf8* and White should be better, but still this is not easy.*)* 29.Bc7 Rd5 30.Nxc4?! Inaccuracy, which gives chances for Black. *(30.Qa1!±* was correct and White is clearly better.*)* 30...Qa2! The best move! Black immediately find his counterattack. 31.Nd2 g5? Probably Black wanted to avoid ♗f4, but this is a bad move. *(31...c4!* was important to connect the pawns.*)* 32.Nf1? Error in reply! White would like to play for ♘e3, but the knight was very important on d2. *(* White should separate Black's pawns with *32.c4! Rd4 33.Qc1±* followed by ♕c3 and still Black has some practical chances, objectively White should be better.*)* 32...c4 *(32...d2!?)* 33.Qd2 Qa8? Decisive mistake! *(*Black should exchange queens: *33...Qxd2 34.Nxd2 Rb5 35.Nxc4* Otherwise ... ♗d5. *Rc5! 36.Nb2 Rxc3 37.Rd1 d2 38.Rxd2 Rxh3⇄* and Black has a good counterplay.*)* 34.Ne3!= 1-0 (41) Harikrishna,P (2755)-Ding,L (2778) Danzhou 2016;

C3c22212) 23.h4 c5 24.h5 Be8 25.Nh4 c4 26.Nf5 Qb7 27.Qd2 Rd5 28.b3 Rxf5 29.gxf5 Qf3-+ 0-1 (41) Sadhwani,R (2611)-Perez Candelario,M (2578) Ovar 2022;

C3c2222) 19...a5 20.bxa5 Rxa5 21.Ba2

C3c22221) 21...Rf8 22.b4 *(22.e6 Qd8 23.exf7+ Kh8 24.Bd2 Rxa2 25.Rxa2 Bxf7 26.Ra6 Bd5 27.Ne5 Bc5 28.Rxc6 Bxf2+ 29.Kh2 Qh4 30.Nf7+ Kg8* 0-1 (30)

Muzychuk,A (2535)-Saduakassova,D (2500) Caleta 2021*)* 22...Ra4 23.e6 '!?' *(23.Qd2 '?!' Nd8 '!' 24.Bg5 c5 25.Bxe7 Qxe7 26.bxc5 Qxc5∓* ½ (43) Caruana,F (2805)-Giri,A (2773) Stavanger 2015*)* 23...Qd8 '=' 24.exf7+ Kh8 25.Be6 Rxa1 26.Qxa1 Bxf7 27.Qa2= 0-1 (42) Swiercz,D (2652)-Sevian,S (2684) Saint Louis 2022;

C3c22222) 21...Rxa2 22.Rxa2 Qd5 23.Ra1 b4 24.Nd2 f6 *(24...bxc3 25.bxc3 Bc5 26.Qb3 Qd7 27.e6 fxe6 28.Qxe6+ Qxe6 29.Rxe6+-* 1-0 (35) Vokhidov,S (2589)-Saydaliev,S (2421) Tashkent 2023*)* 25.exf6 Bxf6 26.Rc1± 1-0 (54) Anand,V (2756)-Mamedyarov,S (2747) Mayrhofen 2022 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-11.Bc2 d4 12.Nb3 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

[15.Re1 0-0 16.Be3 *(16.Bf4 a5 17.Re3 Bg6 18.Bxd3 Bc5 19.Bxb5 Bxe3 20.Bxe3 Qxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Rfd8 22.Re1 Na7 23.Bc4 h6 24.Bc5±* 1-0 (70) Sutovsky,E (2645)-Veinberg,N (2389) Israel 2017*)* 16...Qd5 *(16...Bg6 17.Bd4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Bb4 19.Re3 d2 20.Bxg6 fxg6 21.Rd3 Rf4 22.d5 Re4 23.Rxd2 Bxd2 24.Qxd2+-* 1-0 (37) Bruzon Batista,L (2687)-Mikhalevski,V (2551) Edmonton 2013*; 16...h6 17.Bd4 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Bg6 19.Bxd3 Bxd3 20.Nc6 Qd7 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.Qxd3 Rfd8 23.Qe4±* ½ (47) Lobanov,S (2495)-Meskovs,N (2541) Riga 2019*)* 17.b4 Rfd8 *(17...a5 18.bxa5 Rxa5 19.Rxa5 Nxa5 20.Nd4 Bg6 21.Bxd3 Rd8 22.Bxg6 hxg6 23.Qe2 b4 24.e6 fxe6 25.Bf4 Bf6 26.Bxc7 Re8 27.Bxa5 Qxa5 28.Nc6* 1-0 (28) Cheparinov,I (2687)-Jussupow,A (2587) Amsterdam 2008 *)*

A) 18.Ba2 Qd7 19.Bg5 *(19.Nd4 Nxd4 20.Bxd4 Bxb4 21.e6 Bxe6 22.Rxe6 fxe6 23.Qg4 Kh8 24.Bxe6 Qe7 25.cxb4 Rxd4* ½-½ (25) Robson,R (2466)-Ernst,S (2576) Hoogeveen 2008*)* 19...h6 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Nd2 Be6 22.f4 Bxa2 23.Rxa2 Qe6 24.Ra1 Qd5 25.Qb3 Ne7 26.Qxd5 Nxd5 ½-½ (26) Smirnov,P (2579)-Iordachescu,V (2572) Khanty-Mansiysk 2008;

B) 18.Bd4 a5 *(18...d2 19.Qxd2 Bxb1 20.Raxb1 Bxb4 21.Qf4 Be7 22.e6 fxe6 23.Qxc7 Nxd4 24.Nxd4 Bd6 25.Qa5=* 1-0 (58) Ivic,V (2511)-Brkic,A (2600) Mali Losinj 2019*; 18...Bxb4 19.Ba2 Qd7 20.Ng5 Nxd4 21.Nxf7 Be6 22.Nxd8 Rxd8 23.Qxd3 Bxa2 24.Rxa2 Qe6=* 0-1 (64) Quparadze,G (2463)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020*)* 19.bxa5 Rxa5 20.Rxa5 Nxa5 21.Bxd3 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 c5 23.Qxb5 cxd4 24.Qxd5 Rxd5 25.Nxd4 Nc4∓ 0-1 (45) Wang,H (2722)-Mamedyarov,S (2740) Baku 2022]

[15.h3 0-0 16.b4

A) 16...Qd7

A1) 17.Bf4 Rfd8 18.g4 Bg6 19.Bg3 h5 *(19...Kh8 20.Re1 Qc8 21.Nd2 a5 22.bxa5 Rxa5 23.Rxa5 Nxa5 24.f4 f5=* ½ (46) Harikrishna,P (2752)-Caruana,F (2808) Baku 2016*)* 20.Nd2 *(20.Re1 d2 21.Re2 Bxb1 22.Rxb1 hxg4 23.Rxd2 Qf5 24.hxg4 Qxg4 25.Nd4 Qg6 26.Nxc6 Qxc6 27.Ra1 Qg6=* ½ (37) Anand,V (2776)-Mamedyarov,S (2761) Moscow 2016 *)* 20...hxg4

21.hxg4 Nxb4 22.cxb4 Bxb4 23.Ba2 c5 24.e6 fxe6 25.Nf3 c4 26.Ne5± 1-0 (56) Caruana,F (2822)-Mamedyarov,S (2801) Saint Louis 2018;

A2) 17.g4 Bg6 18.Bf4 a5 19.bxa5 Rxa5 20.Rxa5 Nxa5 21.e6 fxe6 22.Ne5 Qd5 23.Bg3 d2 24.Bxg6 hxg6 25.Nxg6 Rf7∓ ½ (55) Alekseenko,K (2668)-Inarkiev,E (2682) Izhevsk 2019;

B) 16...Bg6 17.Re1 a5 18.e6 *(18.bxa5 Rxa5 19.Rxa5 Nxa5 20.e6 fxe6 21.Rxe6 c5 22.Qe1 Bf6 23.Bf4 c4 24.Bd6 Bf7* ½ (35) Shirov,A (2722)-L'Ami,E (2628) Wijk aan Zee 2011 with good counterplay*)* 18...fxe6 19.Rxe6 Rf6 20.Rxf6 Bxf6 21.bxa5 Nxa5 22.Ne1 d2 23.Qxd2 Bxb1 24.Rxb1 Qxd2 25.Bxd2± 1-0 (43) Wei,Y (2732)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020]

[15.Bf4

A) 2 years ago 15...Qd5 was tried, 16.Re1 0-0 17.b4 *(17.Ba2?! b4 18.Nd2 Nd8 19.Be3 f6 20.exf6 Bxf6∓* D.Howell-Berry, England 2013, and Black has wonderful activity. *)* 17...Rfe8 18.h3± and White is slightly better.;

B) or even 15...Qd7 16.Qd2 0-0 17.Rd1 Rfd8 18.Ne1 Qe6 19.Nxd3 Bxd3 20.Bxd3 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Qxe5 22.Re1 Qd6 1/2 Fenwick-Anderson, corr 2013.;

C) 15...0-0 16.Ne1 is a quick attempt to liquidate the ♙d3, but it's amply met with Qd5 17.Bxd3 Bxd3 18.Qxd3 *(18.Nxd3 Rfd8∓)* 18...Qxb3 19.Qf3?! *(19.Nf3!?=* '!' should have played *Rfd8 20.Qe4 Qe6 21.Rfc1!* and he prepares for ♘d4 with a balanced middlegame. *)* 19...Qe6 20.Nd3 Rfd8 21.Rad1 *(*Probably *⩲21.Rfd1* was more accurate, *Rd7 22.Ne1=* and White simplifies the position.*)* 21...Rd7 22.Rde1 *(22.Nb4* was interesting to take advantage of the unprotected a8 ♖, *Bxb4 23.Rxd7 Qxd7 24.Rd1 Qe8 25.cxb4 Nxb4* and although Black is a ♙ up, White has some chance to equalise. *)* 22...Rad8 23.Nc1 Na5 24.Ne2 Nb3 25.Qg3 c5∓ Sengupta,D (2567)-Wei,Y (2706) Tsaghkadzor 2015: 0-1 (43) Sengupta,D (2567)-Wei,Y (2706) Tsaghkadzor 2015]

15...0-0

[15...Bg6 16.Nd4 Nxe5 17.f4 c5 18.fxe5 cxd4 19.Bxd4± 1-0 Sawatzki,F-Pieper Emden,C/Karlsruhe 1997 (52)]

[15...Qd5 16.h3 *(16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 c5 18.Bxd3 Bxd3 19.Qxd3 cxd4 20.Qxd4 Qxb3 21.Qg4 Qxb2 22.Qxg7 Rf8 23.Qh6* 1-0 (23) Stellwagen,D (2604)-Belezky,A (2455) Germany 2013*)* 16...0-0 17.Re1 Rfd8 18.b4 a5 19.bxa5 Nxa5 20.Nd4 Bg6 21.f4 c5 22.Nxb5 Qb7∓ 0-1 (31) Vokhidov,S (2512)-Robson,R (2673) Lichess.org INT 2020]

16.Bd4

[16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 c5 18.Bxd3 cxd4

A) 19.Bxd4 Qxd4 20.Bxf5 Qxb2 etc. *(20...Qxe5 21.Qh5 g6 22.Bxg6 Qxh5 23.Bxh5 Bf6 24.Bf3 Ra7 25.Rab1 Rd8* ½-½ (25) Quparadze,G (2498)-Jojua,D (2575) Tbilisi 2017*; 20...Bc5 21.Qe2 Rae8 22.Rfe1 g6 23.Rad1 Qxf2+ 24.Qxf2 Bxf2+ 25.Kxf2 gxf5 26.Kf3±* ½ (38) Karjakin,S (2678)-Jussupow,A (2583) Amsterdam 2007*)* 21.Qd5 Rfd8 22.Bd7 Ra7 23.e6 Kh8 24.Qf3 fxe6

(24...Qf6 25.Qe3 Raa8 26.Bc6 Rab8 27.exf7 Qxf7 28.Rxa6 Bf6 29.Qf3± ½ (57) Ganguly,S (2585)-Najer,E (2624) Moscow 2005) 25.Bxb5 Bc5= Voiculescu,C (2502)-Grill,H (2474) email 2013;

B) 19.Bxf5 dxe3 20.fxe3 Bc5 '?' *(20...Qb6=; 20...Bg5!?)* 21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Qc2+ Kg8 23.Qxc5± ½ (34) Tomashevsky,E (2728)-Ding,L (2766) Huaian 2016;

C) 19.Bf4 Qd7 20.Qb1 Bg6 21.Bd2 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 f6⇄ 0-1 Luther,T-Mikhalevski,V/Port Erin 2003/ (33)]

16...Qd5 17.Re1 Postny: 'It's interesting that this position has arisen in a few games with White's turn to move. This could happen after 10... ♗g4 11.♗c2 ♗e7 12.♖e1 d4 13.♘b3 d3 14.♗b1 ♘xb3 15.axb3 ♗f5 16.♗e3 0-0 17.♗d4 ♕d5. After 18.♖e3 Sorokin managed to hold in the game Oll,L-Sorokin,M/Norilsk 1987 (½-½,57). Practice has proved that the d3-pawn is not easy to "digest". In the game So even obtained a slightly more pleasant ending.

[17.Bxd3 Bxd3 18.Qxd3 Qxb3 19.Qe4 *(19.Qe2 Rfd8 20.Rfd1 a5 21.h4 a4 22.h5 h6 23.Rd2 Na5 24.Rc2 c5∓* 1-0 (63) Erdogdu,M (2407)-Yilmaz,M (2631) Chess.com INT 2022*)* 19...Nxd4 *(19...Qe6 20.Be3 f5 21.Qf4 a5 22.Rfd1 Rfd8 23.h4 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Rd8 25.Re1 Rd5 26.Bc1 Rd8 27.Be3 Rd5 28.Bc1* ½-½ (28) Frolyanov,D (2599)-Vokarev,S (2431) Khanty-Mansiysk 2011 *)* 20.Nxd4 Qxb2 21.Nf5 Rae8 22.Rxa6 Qxc3 23.Rc6 Bc5 24.Qg4 g6 25.Nh6+ Kg7 26.Nf5+ Kh8 27.Qg5 Bxf2+ 28.Rxf2 Qxc6-+ 0-1 Maus,S-Pieper Emden,C/ BL8889 1989/BL 80 (36)]

[Au lieu de cela, 17.b4 était aisément contré par Bxb4]

17...Rfd8

[Winants: Un renforcement possible serait 17...d2

A) 18.Nxd2 Bxb1 *(ou 18...Nxd4)* 19.Nxb1 Nxd4 20.cxd4 b4!⇄ '!' Winants: '(enfermant le Cavalier). Avec un excellent contre-jeu';

B) 18.Qxd2 Bxb1 19.Raxb1 Qxb3= 20.Qf4 *(20.e6?! fxe6 21.Re4 Rad8 22.Qe2 Bf6 23.Rxe6 Nxd4 24.Nxd4 Bxd4 25.cxd4 Rxd4 26.Re7 Qd5∓* 0-1 (48) Brkic,A (2521)-Iordachescu,V (2584) Plovdiv 2008 *)* 20...Qe6!?=;

C) 18.Bxf5 dxe1Q+ 19.Qxe1 g6 *(19...Qxb3 20.Qb1 g6 21.Be4 Qe6 22.Qa2 Nxd4 23.Bxa8 Nb3 24.Bd5 Qxd5 25.Nd4 Qxe5 26.Qxb3 Bc5-+* 0-1 (51) Amonatov,F (2559)-Svetushkin,D (2588) Moscow 2007*)* 20.Qe4 Qxb3 21.Qxc6 gxf5 22.Qxc7 Qe6 23.Re1 Rfc8 24.Qa5 Rc6 25.Qa1 Rd8 26.Be3 Qd5 27.Nd4 Rg6 28.g3= 1-0 (48) Sjugirov,S (2652)-Lomasov,S (2530) Moscow 2018;

D) 18.Re2 '!' 18...Bxb1 19.Rxb1 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 *(20.cxd4 Bb4)* 20...Bg5

D1) 21.Nf3 Bh6 Winants: 'et les Noirs se portent à merveille' 22.Nxd2 Rad8 23.Qc2 Bxd2 24.Rd1 Qe6 25.Rdxd2 Rxd2 26.Qxd2 Qxb3=;

D2) 21.h4 Bf4 22.g3 *(22.b4 Bxe5 23.Rxd2 Bxd4 24.Rxd4 Qf5 25.Ra1 Qf6 26.g3± ½* (53) Alekseenko,K (2650)-Nesterov,A (2423) Yaroslavl 2019 *)* 22...Bxe5 23.Rxd2 Bf6 24.b4 *(24.Qc2 Rfe8 25.Rbd1 g6 26.b4 Rad8 27.Nb3 Qf3= ½* (44) Bacrot,E (2697)-Aguera Naredo,J (2375) Skopje 2015 *)*

24...Qe4 25.Ra1 Rfe8 26.Re2 Qd5 27.Rxa6 Bxd4 28.Qxd4 Qxd4 29.cxd4 Kf8 30.Rxe8+ Rxe8 31.Ra5 Re4= 1-0 (59) Adams,M (2716)-Turner,M (2509) Tornelo INT 2021;

D3) 21.g3 c5 *(21...f6 22.f4 c5 23.Nc2 Bh6 24.Rxd2 Qxb3 25.exf6 gxf6 26.Qh5± ½ (61) Lorparizangeneh,S (2519)-Lalith,B (2584) Moscow 2017 ; 21...g6 22.f4 c5 23.Nc2 Be7 24.Rxd2 Qxb3 25.Ne3 Qxd1+ 26.Rbxd1 Rfd8 27.Nd5± 1-0 (41) Zhigalko,A (2590)-Holzke,F (2508) Plovdiv 2012)* 22.Nf5 Qd3 *(22...Rad8 23.f4 Qd3 24.Nd6 Be7 25.Rxd2 Qe3+ 26.Kg2± 1-0 (41) Smeets,J (2604)-De Jong,J (2479) Netherlands 2009)* 23.Nd6 Qg6

D3a) 24.Ra1 Bf4 *(⌓24...Rfd8!∞)* 25.Qb1 Bxe5?? *(25...Qe6⇄)* 26.Qxg6 fxg6 27.Rxe5 Rad8 28.Rd5 Rf6 29.Rxa6 1-0, Van den Doel,E (2565)-Geirnaert,S (2449) Netherlands 2015;

D3b) 24.h4

D3b1) 24...Bh6 25.h5 *(25.Kh2 f6 26.e6 Rad8 27.e7 Rxd6 28.exf8Q+ Kxf8∓ ½ (41) Stellwagen,D (2605)-Svetushkin,D (2588) Dresden 2008)* 25...Qxh5 26.Rxd2 Qxe5 27.Rd5± ½ (59) Anand,V (2768)-Mamedyarov,S (2801) Saint Louis 2018;

D3b2) 24...Bxh4 25.Rxd2 Be7 26.Rd5 *(26.Ra1 Qe6 27.Rd5 f6 28.Rxc5 fxe5 29.Qd5 Qxd5 30.Rxd5± ½ (64) Zanan,E (2521)-Mikhalevski,V (2579) Maalot Tarshiha 2018)* 26...f6 27.e6 f5 28.Qd3 Qxe6 29.Nxf5 Rad8 *(29...Bf6 30.Rd1 Rad8 31.Qe3 Qxe3 32.Nxe3 Rxd5 33.Nxd5± 1-0 (60) Bruzon Batista,L (2689)-Mikhalevski,V (2552) Arlington 2013)* 30.Qe3 Qxe3 31.Nxe3= leads to an endgame, which is more comfortable for White. He went on to win this game, and a couple of others as well. Rxd5 32.Nxd5 Bd8= 1-0 (58) Caruana,F (2767)-L'Ami,E (2611) Reykjavik 2012;

D3b3) 24...Bf4 25.Ne4 f5 26.Nxd2 Rad8 27.Ra1 Rfe8 28.Qe1 Bxd2 29.Rxd2 Rxd2 30.Qxd2 Rxe5 31.Qd8+ Re8 32.Qd5+ Qe6 33.Rd1± 1-0 (64) Caruana,F (2827)-Mamedyarov,S (2820) Batumi 2018 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-14.ab3 Bf5 15.Be3 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

[17...Nd8!?

A) 18.b4 Ne6 19.Bxd3 Bxd3 20.Qxd3 Rfd8 and White is not able to hold his extra pawn, for example: 21.Red1 *(21.Rad1 a5!; 21.Qe2 Bxb4 22.cxb4 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Qxd4 24.e6 fxe6 25.Qxe6+± 1-0 (58) Bok,B (2562)-Pruijssers,R (2507) Amsterdam 2015)* 21...Nxd4 22.cxd4 Bxb4;

B) 18.e6!? Preventing Black to occupy the e6 square with the knight.

B1) 18...Nxe6?! 19.Re5 Qd7 20.Rxf5 Nxd4 21.Nxd4 c5 22.Qxd3 g6 *(22...cxd4? 23.Rd5+-)* 23.Rf4 cxd4 24.Rxd4±;

B2) 18...Bxe6 19.Qxd3 Qh5 20.Re5 looks unattractive for Black as well.;

B3) 18...fxe6 19.Bxd3 Bxd3 20.Re5 *(20.Qxd3? c5 21.Re5 Qd7 22.Qe4 cxd4 23.Qxa8 Nc6 24.Qxa6 Rxf3)* 20...Qd7 21.Qxd3

B3a) A principled continuation was: 21...c5!?

B3a1) 22.Rh5? g6 *(22...h6?? 23.Rxh6!+-)* 23.Ne5 Qe8 24.Qh3 cxd4 25.Rxh7 Bf6 26.Nd7 Bg7 27.Nxf8 Qxf8∓;

B3a2) 22.Qe4 cxd4 23.Qxa8 Nc6 24.Qxa6 Rxf3 25.Rxb5 Rf6 with chances for both sides.;

B3b) 21...Nf7 22.Re3 c5 23.Be5 Qxd3 24.Rxd3 Rfd8 25.Rxd8+ Nxd8 26.Bf4± 1-0 Grischuk,A (2724)-Sorokin,M (2599)/Sochi 2005/ (75) White has a small, but long-lasting advantage thanks to his superior pawn structure.]

[17...b4!? Why not, as the d3 pawn is still not hanging and it could be useful to trade the queenside pawns. Warum nicht, denn der d3-Bauer hängt immer noch nicht und es könnte nützlich sein, die Bauern am Damenflügel zu tauschen. 18.Bxd3 After a long thought Hari picks the most obvious option. Nach langem Überlegen entscheidet sich Hari für die naheliegendste Option. *(18.Re3 bxc3 19.bxc3 Rfb8 20.b4 a5 21.bxa5 Nxa5 22.Bxd3 Bxd3 23.Rxd3 ½-½* (23) Nayhebaver,M (2517)-Dragnev,V (2544) Porec 2022*)* 18...Bxd3 19.Qxd3 bxc3 20.bxc3 Qxb3

A) 21.Qe4 Qc4 *(21...Qe6 22.g3 Rfd8 23.Ra4 a5 24.Kg2 h6 25.h4 Bf8 26.Be3)* 22.Nd2 Qe6 23.f4 Nxd4 24.cxd4 Rfd8 25.Nf3 c5 26.f5 Qd5 27.Qg4 f6 28.dxc5 Qxc5+ *(28...a5 29.Kh1 Qxc5)* 29.Kh1 fxe5 30.Rxe5 Qb4 31.Re4 h5;

B) 21.e6 White simplifies the matters further. The drawing tendencies rise. Weiß vereinfacht die Dinge weiter. Die Remistendenzen nehmen zu. 21...fxe6 22.Qe2 This looked smart, keeping the option of Rxa6, but after some thought I came up with a clear cut solution. Das sah schlau aus, da es die Möglichkeit von Txa6 offen hielt, aber nach einigem Nachdenken kam ich auf eine klare Lösung. a5 Giving up the a6 pawn would not be a disaster, but then White would get to exert some risk free pressure, something that I felt his position wasn't deserving at this point. Den a6-Bauern aufzugeben, wäre keine Katastrophe, aber dann könnte Weiß risikolos Druck ausüben, was seine Stellung meines Erachtens zu diesem Zeitpunkt nicht verdient hätte. 23.c4 The queen is a little out of squares now on b3, but I planned a spectacular solution, which turned out to be completely not neccessary. Die Dame ist jetzt auf b3 ein wenig knapp an Feldern, aber ich habe eine spektakuläre Lösung geplant, die sich als völlig unnötig herausstellte. Qxf3!? I was very happy with the aesthetics of this move. In fact the simple 23...Rxf3 24.Qxe6 Rf7 was also fine and even the very plain 23...Nxd4 24.Nxd4 Qb6 is very comfortable. Ich war mit der Ästhetik dieses Zuges sehr zufrieden. In der Tat war das einfache 23... Txf3 24.Dxe6 Tf7+ auch in Ordnung und sogar das sehr schlichte 23...Sxd4 24. Sxd4 Db6 ist sehr bequem. 24.gxf3 Accepting the queen sac. Actually already when I went for it, I saw the line whch happened in the game. As I kept considering alternatives on every move, because I thought I had plenty, I finally still dismissed all of them and ended up with what I saw immediately. Akzeptiert das Damenopfer. Eigentlich sah ich schon, als ich mich darauf einließ, die

Variante, die in der Partie kam. Da ich bei jedem Zug Alternativen in Betracht zog, weil ich dachte, ich hätte genug, verwarf ich schließlich doch alle und landete bei dem, was ich sofort sah. *(24.Qxe6+ Qf7 25.Qxc6* Would kind of kill the fun, though Black is on the good side of things here after 25...Bb4. würde irgendwie den Spaß verderben, obwohl Schwarz hier nach 25...Lb4 auf der guten Seite steht.*)* 24...Nxd4 25.Qe4 Nxf3+ I actually considered not winning the exchange, but that would be quite insane. Material should be grabbed. Ich habe tatsächlich überlegt, die Qualität nicht zu gewinnen, aber das wäre ziemlich verrückt. Material sollte man schnappen. 26.Kh1 Nxe1 Also possible was 26...Bf6 which would be similar to 26...Nxf3 27.Qxe6+ Kh8, keeping the knight instead of the bishop. Möglich wäre auch 26...Lf6, was ähnlich wäre wie 26...Sxf3 27.Dxe6+ Kh8, wobei man den Springer statt des Läufers behält. 27.Qxe6+ Rf7 *(27...Kh8 28.Qxe7 Rae8* This looked fine as well, but not being a winning attempt either, I decided to instead stick to the line where I keep the bishop. Das sah auch gut aus, aber da es auch kein Gewinnversuch war, beschloss ich, stattdessen bei der Variante zu bleiben, bei der ich den Läufer behalte. *)* 28.Rxe1 Here was the moment where I thought I could consider playing for a win, but finally it didn't seem feasible at all. The margin for a draw is enormous, but to actually start playing for a win, I need to consolidate and keep the a-pawn alive at the same time, something that wasn't quite possible to achieve. Das war der Moment, in dem ich dachte, dass ich auf Sieg spielen könnte, aber letztendlich schien das überhaupt nicht machbar zu sein. Der Spielraum für ein Remis ist enorm, aber um tatsächlich auf Sieg zu spielen, muss ich mich konsolidieren und gleichzeitig den a-Bauern am Leben erhalten, was nicht ganz möglich war. Raf8 The simplest. The rooks get connected and after Kh8, the coordination will be regained. Das Einfachste. Die Türme werden verbunden und nach Kh8 wird die Koordination wiederhergestellt. *(28...Rd8* Was perhaps an attempt to play on, but White has multiple moves after which I didn't see how to keep playing ambitiously. war vielleicht ein Versuch, weiterzuspielen, aber Weiß hat mehrere Züge, nach denen ich nicht sah, wie man ehrgeizig weiterspielen kann. *29.Re5* for example, activating the rook along the 5th rank, hinting at c5 push, disrupting the potential connection between the a-pawn and the e7 bishop. zum Beispiel, aktiviert den Turm auf der 5. Reihe, deutet den c5-Vorstoß an und unterbricht die möglichen Verbindung zwischen dem a-Bauern und dem Läufer auf e7. *)* 29.Rd1 The rook is heading towards d7. Der Turm bewegt sich nach d7. *(29.Re5* Was an attempt to keep the game going, but the demonstration of the safety limit Black has would be the following line. war ein Versuch, das Spiel in Gang zu halten, aber die Demonstration der Sicherheitsgrenze, die Schwarz hat, wäre die folgende Variante: *Kh8 30.Rxa5 Bb4 31.Ra8 Rxf2 32.Rxf8+ Rxf8 33.Qc6 Bd6 34.c5 Bxc5 35.Qxc5 Rf6 36.Qxc7 h5 37.Qe5 Kg8 38.Qxh5 Rh6* and having given up a full bishop in the process, Black is safer than ever in this position, which is a theoretical draw. The rook will keep swinging between h6 and f6 squares. Of

course Black could also not give up everything, but this is just to show how pointless an attempt to play for a win would be for White. und nachdem er dabei einen ganzen Läufer geopfert hat, ist Schwarz in dieser Stellung, die ein theoretisches Remis ist, sicherer denn je. Der Turm wird weiterhin zwischen den Feldern h6 und f6 pendeln. Natürlich könnte Schwarz auch nicht alles aufgeben, aber dies soll nur zeigen, wie sinnlos ein Versuch, auf Gewinn zu spielen, für Weiß wäre. *)* 29...Kh8 I saw the following cute drawing combination disturbingly early in this game. Ich habe die folgende hübsche Remiskombination beunruhigend früh in dieser Partie gesehen. 30.Rd7 Rxf2 31.Qxe7 Rf1+ 32.Kg2 R1f2+ 33.Kg1 Rf1+ 34.Kg2 R1f2+ 35.Kg1 ½-½ (35) Harikrishna,P (2719)-Giri,A (2772) Belgrade 2022 There is no hiding from the checks. Vor den Schachs kann man sich nicht verstecken.]

18.Re3

[18.h4

A) 18...d2 19.Bxf5 '!?' *(19.Qxd2 Bxb1 20.Raxb1 Qxb3 21.e6 fxe6 22.Qf4 Bd6 23.Qg4 e5± /=)* 19...dxe1Q+ 20.Qxe1 Qxb3 *(20...a5!?∞)* 21.Qe4 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 Qxb2 23.Rf1 Qxc3 24.Nc6 Kf8 25.Bxh7 ½ (49) Svane,R (2613)-Wagner,D (2581) Magdeburg 2021 Qb3**∓**;

B) 18...Bg4 19.Qxd3 g6 20.b4 Bf5 21.Qe2 Bxb1 22.Raxb1 Bxb4 23.Rbd1 Be7 24.Bb6 Qe6 25.Bxc7 Rd7 26.Rxd7 Qxd7 27.Bb6**±** 1-0 (44) Le,Q (2694)-Lalith,B (2571) Xingtai 2019;

C) 18...h6 '**≤**'

C1) 19.Re3! Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bg6 21.b4 c5 22.bxc5 Bxc5 23.Ba2 Qb7 24.h5 Bxd4 *(24...Bh7 25.e6±)* 25.cxd4 Bf5 26.d5↑;

C2) 19.Bxd3 Bxd3 20.Qxd3 Qxb3 *(20...Bc5!?⇄)* 21.e6 Bf6 '=!' 22.Qe4 Qxe6 23.Qxe6 fxe6 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Rxe6**±** ½ (51) Saric,I (2692)-Stevic,H (2589) Zagreb 2018;

D) 18...Bc5 doesn't seem to fully solve the opening problems after 19.Bxc5 *(19.Bxd3 Bxd3 20.Qxd3 Bxd4 21.cxd4 Nxd4=)* 19...Qxc5 20.b4

D1) 20...Qe7 21.Re3 h6 22.e6!? *(22.Bxd3 Rxd3 23.Rxd3 Bxd3 24.Qxd3 Nxe5 25.Qe4 Nxf3+ 26.gxf3±)* 22...Bxe6 23.Bxd3**±**;

D2) 20...Qc4 21.e6! *(21.Ba2 Qg4∞)* 21...Bxe6 *(21...fxe6 22.Ba2 Qg4 23.Ng5↑)* 22.Ng5 Bd5 23.g3 *(23.Qh5 h6 24.Ba2 Qxa2 25.Rxa2 Bxa2≅)* 23...h6 24.Bxd3 Qb3 25.Qxb3 Bxb3 26.Be4**±** /↑;

E) 18...Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Be4!? *(19...Bg6?! 20.h5* is one of the ideas behind 17.h4: *d2 21.hxg6! dxe1Q+ 22.Qxe1 c5 23.Be4±; 19...d2 20.Bxf5 dxe1Q+ 21.Qxe1 Kf8 22.Rd1 Qc5 23.Bxh7 Bxh4 24.Qe4±* 1-0 (33) Sethuraman,S (2638)-Saduakassova,D (2505) Sitges 2019 *)*

E1) 20.Qg4 c5 *(20...Bg6!?* **Δ** *21.h5 d2=)* 21.Rxe4 cxd4=;

E2) 20.b4 c5 A more testing move is

E2a) 21.bxc5 Bxc5 22.Qg4 *(22.Bxd3 Bxd3 23.Qxd3 Bxd4 24.cxd4 Qxd4=; 22.Ba2?! Qxe5 23.Qg4 Re8 24.Nf3 Bxf3 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.Qxf3+ Qf6 27.Qh5+ g6 28.Qxc5 Rxe1+ 29.Rxe1 Rd8 30.Qc7+ Kg8*

31.Re6 Qxh4 32.Qe5!⇄) 22...Bxd4 23.Rxe4 Bxe5 24.Ba2 *(24.Bxd3 Bxc3)* 24...Qd6!? *(24...Qc5 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.Qf5+ Kg8 27.Rxe5 Qf8=)* 25.Qh5 Bh2+ 26.Kh1 g6 27.Qf3 Be5=;

E2b) 21.Ba2!? c4 22.Qg4 Bg6□ 23.h5 d2□ 24.Red1 Bd3 25.h6! *(25.Qf4 a5!? 26.bxa5 Rxa5 27.e6 Rf8=)* 25...g6 *(25...Bg6 26.f4!?±)* 26.Qf4 **Δ** a5 27.bxa5 Rxa5 28.e6↑;

F) 18...a5!?

F1) 19.Re3 a4 20.bxa4 Na5!? 21.e6 f6∞;

F2) 19.Bxd3 Bxd3 20.Qxd3 Qxb3 21.e6 fxe6 *(21...Bf6 22.exf7+ Qxf7 23.Qxb5±)* 22.Qe4 Qc4 23.h5 Nxd4 *(23...e5 24.Bxe5 Qxe4 25.Rxe4 Bd6 26.Bxd6 Rxd6=)* 24.Nxd4 Bf6 25.Qxe6+ Qxe6 26.Nxe6 Rd7 27.g4 a4⇄;

F3) 19.h5!? Nxd4 20.Nxd4 *(20.cxd4 Bb4 21.Re3 c5=)* 20...d2 21.Bxf5 dxe1Q+ 22.Qxe1 Ra6 23.Be4⩲;

G) 18...Bg6

G1) 19.b4!

G1a) 19...Nxd4 20.Nxd4

G1a1) 20...Bxb4 21.Ba2 Qb7 22.h5 Be4 23.Qg4! Rxd4 24.h6 Bf8 *(24...g6 25.cxb4 d2 26.Qf4! dxe1Q+ 27.Rxe1 Bf5 28.Qxd4+-)* 25.hxg7 Bxg7 26.cxd4+-;

G1a2) 20...Bxh4 21.Bxd3 Bxd3 22.Qxd3±;

G1a3) 20...d2!? 21.Qxd2 Bxb1 22.Raxb1 Bxb4 23.Qg5±;

G1b) 19...d2 20.Qxd2 Bxb1 21.Raxb1 Bxb4 *(21...Nxd4 22.Qxd4±)* 22.Qf4

G1b1) The engine prefers 22...Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Bc5 24.e6 fxe6 25.Nxe6 Rd7 *(25...Rf8 26.Nxf8 Rxf8 27.Qe4 Bxf2+ 28.Kh1 Qd8 29.Red1 Qxh4+ 30.Qxh4 Bxh4 31.Ra1±)* 26.Re5 *(26.Nxc7 Bxf2+! 27.Kxf2 Qc5+=; 26.Re2)* 26...Qa2 27.Rbe1 Bd6 28.Qf3 Re8 29.R5e2±;

G1b2) 22...Be7 23.e6! fxe6 24.Qg4

G1b21) ⩲24...e5!? 25.Bxe5 Nxe5 26.Rxe5 Qf7 27.Rbe1 Bf6±;

G1b22) 24...g6 25.Be5! Bd6 *(25...Nxe5 26.Nxe5→)* 26.Rbd1 Qc4 27.Qxc4 bxc4 28.Bxd6 cxd6 29.Rxe6±;

G1b23) 24...Bf8 25.Be5! *(25.Rxe6 Re8±)* 25...Nxe5 26.Nxe5↑;

G1b24) 24...Nxd4 25.Nxd4 Bf6 26.Nxe6± 1-0 (35) Caruana,F (2804)-Hou,Y (2663) Shamkir 2016;

G2) 19.Bxd3 Bxd3 20.Qxd3 Qxb3 21.e6 fxe6 22.Qe4 Qc4 23.Qg4 Nxd4 24.cxd4 Bf6 25.Rac1 Qd5 26.Rxc7 Qf5= ½ (61) Saric,I (2680)-Mamedyarov,S (2759) Zagreb 2022]

[18.h3 d2 19.Re2 Bxb1 20.Rxb1 Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Bg5 22.b4 a5 23.bxa5 c5 24.Nb3 b4 25.g3 bxc3 26.bxc3 Qd3 27.Ra1 Qxc3 28.a6 c4 29.f4 cxb3 0-1 (29) Ter Sahakyan,S (2637)-Sindarov,J (2609) Warsaw 2021]

[18.Bxd3 Bxd3 19.Qxd3 Qxb3 20.e6 fxe6 21.Qe4 Qc4 22.Qxe6+ *(22.Rad1*

e5 23.Nxe5 Nxe5 24.Qxe5 Bf6 25.Qh5 Qf7=) 22...Qxe6 23.Rxe6 Bd6 24.Re4 a5 25.Rg4 Rd7= ½-½ (33) Abdumalik,Z (2379)-Koneru,H (2581) Chengdu 2015]

18...Nxd4 19.Nxd4

[19.cxd4

A) 19...Be4!? 20.Bxd3 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 Qxf3 *(21...Qxd4? 22.Bxh7+! Kxh7 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Rh3 '+-' f5 25.e6+-)* 22.Rxf3 Rxd4 '**Δ**' 23.Bxb5 Rad8 24.Bxa6 Rd1+ 25.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 26.Bf1 Bc5! and black should hold the endgame without much difficulties.;

B) 19...c5 20.Bxd3 cxd4 '!' An important intermediate move. Winants: 'Les Noirs sont parvenus à conserver l'équilibre matériel, mais leur position présente encore quelque danger car le pion d4 est vulnérable.' Winants: 'Les Noirs sont parvenus à conserver l'équilibre matériel, mais leur position présente encore quelque danger car le pion d4 est vulnérable.' 21.Re2 This position is critical for the evaluation of this opening line. From the first glance, black seems to be OK. However, if white will manage to transfer his knight to a blockade outpost d3, black will suffer... Winants: 'Mikhalevski,V: Very intresting position has arised.In the beginning it looks like 'Black is OK',but white has a simple plan.He exchanges bishops,put his knight on d3 and white has clear advantage.Look at the position after 25 moves.Now everything is clear.The knight on d3 is much stonger than black's bishop,pawn on d4 is blocked and c-file is open for the white rooks.' *(21.Bxf5? dxe3 22.Qxd5 Rxd5 23.Be4 Rdd8 24.Bxa8? e2! 25.Nd4□ Rxd4 26.Bf3 Rd2 27.Re1 Rxb2 28.g3 Rxb3)*

B1) 21...Bxd3! Mikhalevski,V Winants: 'Black had to put white's queen on d3. Piket probably had forgotten that the queen is not as good blocker as the knight is.' 22.Qxd3 Rac8 Mikhalevski,V 23.h4 *(23.Re4 Qe6 24.h3 Bc5 25.Rg4 h6 26.Re1 Rd5 27.Ree4=* 1-0 (40) Quparadze,G (2477)-Sindarov,J (2609) Warsaw 2021*)* 23...Qe6 24.g3 h6 25.Kg2 Rd7 26.Re4 Rcd8 27.Rc1= 0-1 (48) Nepomniachtchi,I (2782)-Sindarov,J (2609) Warsaw 2021;

B2) 21...Qe6

B2a) et 22.Bxf5?! Qxf5 23.Nxd4

B2a1) 23...Qf4 24.Rd2 Bg5 *(24...Qxe5 25.Nc6 Rxd2 26.Qxd2 Bg5=* conduisait à l'égalité. *)* 25.Rd3 Qxe5 26.Nf3 Qf6=;

B2a2) 23...Qd7! 24.Rd2 Bb4 25.Rd3 Bc5 26.Qf3 Bxd4 27.Rad1 Rac8 28.h3 Bxf2+ 29.Kxf2 Qa7+∓;

B2b) Toutefois, 22.Ne1 immédiatement, était réfuté par Bg4 23.f3 Bh5 suivi éventuellement de ♗g5-é3;

B2c) 22.Rd2 Bxd3 23.Rxd3 Bc5 24.Qd2 Rd5 25.h3 *(25.b4 Ba7 26.Re1 h6 27.Qf4 Rc8=* ½ (99) Lagarde,M (2599)-Dragnev,V (2521) Teplice 2019*)* 25...h6 26.Qf4 Re8 Black has regrouped perfectly and even if his position is slightly marred by the fact that the b-pawn would stand better on b7, he is not at all worse. 27.Qd2 Ba7 28.Rd1 Bb8 29.Re1 Bxe5 30.Nxe5 Rxe5 31.Rxe5 Qxe5 32.Rxd4 Qe1+∓ ½ (70) Wei,Y (2706)-So,W (2773) Wijk aan Zee 2016 The endgame is

already comfortable for Black, who tried to win it till move 70.;
B2d) 22.h3 Covering the g4 square.
B2d1) 22...Rd5?! Winants: 'Mikhalevski,V: Now black missed the last chance to play' Winants: 'Piket a sous-estimé le danger.' 23.Ne1! Now black is helpless against ♗:f5 and ♘d3.' a5 *(Surtout pas 23...Rxe5? 24.Rxe5 Qxe5 25.Qf3+- avec attaque double.)* 24.Bxf5 Qxf5 25.Nd3 h5 26.Rc2 f6 27.exf6 Bxf6 28.Qe2± 1-0 (35) Topalov,V (2745)-Piket,J (2630) Antwerp 1997;
B2d2) Il était nettement préférable de jouer 22...Bb4 afin d'empêcher le transfert du Cavalier blanc vers d3. Par exemple, 23.Rc1 *(*si *23.Bxf5 Qxf5 24.Nxd4 Qf4)* 23...Rac8 24.Bxf5 Qxf5 25.Rxc8 Qxc8 26.Nxd4?? Qd7 27.Re4 Bc5 et les Noirs gagnent.;
B2d3) 22...Bxd3! Mikhalevski,V and after 23.Qxd3 Rd5!;
B2d4) 22...Bg6 23.Ne1 a5 24.Kh2 h6 25.Bxg6 Qxg6 26.Qd3 Qxd3 27.Nxd3± ½ (45) Smeets,J (2585)-Saduakassova,D (2519) Wijk aan Zee 2020;
B2d5) 22...Rac8! 'N!' This obvious move is definitely better than the previously played 22... ♖d5. 23.Ne1 Rc6 24.Qb1?! *(* Why not simply to put the knight on d3? *24.Bxf5 Qxf5 25.Nd3 h5=)* 24...Bxd3 25.Qxd3 h6 26.f4 Qc8 **⇄** 27.Nf3?? Just a big blunder... *(* After the normal prophylactic move *27.Kh2* white's chances seems to me slightly preferable.*)* 27...Rc1+ 28.Re1 *(28.Rxc1 Qxc1+)* 28...Qc2!-+ 0-1 Svidler,P (2735)-Motylev,A (2651)/Moscow 2004/ (38) The decisive penetration. This move was probably missed by Svidler, when playing 27. ♘f3.]

19...Bg6 20.b4
[20.e6 Bg5 21.exf7+ Qxf7⇄]
20...c5
[20...Bg5]
[20...a5!? 21.Rxd3 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 g6 23.Qe4 c5 24.Qxd5 Rxd5 25.Be4 cxd4 26.Bxd5 Rd8=]
21.bxc5 b4
[21...Bxc5
A) 22.e6 Bxd4 23.exf7+ Kf8!? *(23...Qxf7=* **Δ** *24.Ba2? Bxe3 25.Bxf7+ Bxf7 26.fxe3 d2-+)* 24.cxd4 Qxd4 25.Qd2 Ra7∞;
B) 22.Ba2 Qb7 23.e6 *(23.Qg4!?* Karapats,A-Stushkin,I corr 2002 *Rac8 24.e6 Bxd4 25.cxd4 Rc2∞)* 23...Bxd4 24.cxd4 Rxd4 25.exf7+ Bxf7 26.Bxf7+ Qxf7 27.Rxd3 Rxd3 28.Qxd3 Re8 29.h3 Qe6= ½ (40) Kosteniuk,A (2501)-Koneru,H (2610) Beijing 2012]
22.c6 bxc3 23.bxc3 Qc5 24.Bxd3 Bg5 25.Bxg6 hxg6 26.Rd3 Qxe5 27.Nf3 Qb5 28.Rxd8+ Rxd8 29.c7 Rc8 30.Rb1 1-0 Giaccio,A-Fernandez,J/Mar del Plata op 1998/ Ruy Lopez Open Variation-16.Bd4 Qd5 17.Re1 Rd8 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[66] **12.Nb3?!** Kuzmin/ 12...dxc3 13.Qc2 Qd5! 14.Rd1
[14.bxc3 Be7 15.Rd1 Qc4∓]
[14.Qxc3 Bb4 15.Qe3 0-0 16.a3 Be7 17.Bd2 a5∓]
14...Nb4 15.Qe2 Qc4 16.Qxc4 bxc4 17.Na5 Nc2 18.Rb1 Na3 19.Ra1
[19.bxa3]
19...Nc2 20.Rb1∓ Sax,G-Tal,M/Tallinn/1979/0:1/52/ 20...Rb8 21.Nxc4 Na3 22.Nxa3 Bxa3∓ 0-1 (52) Sax,G (2590)-Tal,M (2615) Tallinn 1979

12.c4 b4 13.Ne4 d3 14.Be3 Qd7 15.Qd2 Rd8 16.Rfd1 Be7 17.Ng3 0-0 18.Nf5 Rfe8 19.Re1 Bf8 20.Rad1 Nc5 21.Bxc5 Qxf5 22.Bxf8 Rxf8 23.Qe3 Rfe8= 1-0 (57) Murzin,V (2465)-Mikhalevski,V (2565) Lichess.org INT 2020

12.a4 dxc3 13.bxc3 b4 14.cxb4
[14.Qc2 Qd5 15.c4 Qd7 16.Nb3 Rd8 17.Qe4 Be7 18.Ra2 Nb8 19.c5 Qd5 20.Qb1 Qd3 21.Be3 Qxb1 22.Rxb1 Nc6∓ 0-1 (43) Kuzmin,G (2535)-Dorfman,J (2550) Tbilisi 1978]
14...Nxb4 15.Ba3 Qd5 16.Rb1 a5 17.Nb3 Be7 18.Qd2 Qc6 19.Nxa5 Rxa5 20.Rxb4 Qa8 21.Rb3 Bxa3 22.Rxa3 Rxa4 23.Rxa4 Qxa4 24.Ng5 Qd7 25.Qc1 Nxg5 26.Qxg5 ½-½ (26) Romanishin,O (2550)-Marin,M (2480) Dresden 1988

[67] **13.Ne4** Be7
[13...Qd5
A) 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Re1 *(15.Nc3 Qc4 16.Be3 Rd8 17.Bxd4 Bc5 18.e6 Rxd4 19.exf7+ Qxf7 20.Re1+ Kd7 21.Qc2 Bb6 22.a4 b4 23.a5 Ba7=* ½ (33) Motylev,A (2624)-Matlakov,M (2682) Ufa 2021 *)* 15...Be7 16.Nf6+ gxf6 17.exf6 Rg8 18.Rxe7+ Kd8 19.Qf1 Rxg2+;
B) 14.Nc3 Qd7 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 16.Be3 Bc5 17.Ne4 *(17.Qh5 Qe6 18.Rad1 Rd8 19.Rd2 0-0 20.Rfd1 g6 21.Qh4 Be7 22.Qe4 Nf5 23.Rxd8 Bxd8 24.Bc5±* ½ (31) Romanishin,O (2595)-Jussupow,A (2575) Frunze 1981 *)* 17...Ba7 18.Rc1 0-0 19.Nc5 Bxc5 20.Rxc5 Rfd8 21.Bxd4 Qxd4 22.Qxd4 Rxd4 23.Rxc7± ½ (33) Beliavsky,A (2620)-Dorfman,J (2505) Frunze 1981]
14.Be3
[14.a4 0-0 15.Be3 Nf5 16.Qc2 *(16.Qe2 Qb8 17.Bg5 h6 18.Bxe7 Nxe7 19.Nc3 b4 20.Ne4 Rd8 21.Qc4 Qb6 22.Rfd1 Qa5∓* 0-1 (37) Lederman,L (2415)-Kortschnoj,V (2645) London 1982*)* 16...Nxe3 17.fxe3 Qc8 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.exd4 Qd7 20.Rad1 c6 21.Rf3 Qe6 22.Kh1 f6 23.exf6 Bxf6 24.h3= ½ (49) Zapata,A (2535)-Leko,P (2555) Wijk aan Zee 1995]
14...Nf5
[14...Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 0-0 16.Rfd1 Qe8 17.Nf6+! Bxf6 18.exf6 Qc8 19.fxg7 Rd8 20.h4! Verbliebene Bedenkzeit: Karpov 100 Min. - Kortchnoi 40 Min.. c5 21.Rac1 Qc7 22.h5 Qe5 Die Aktivierung der schwarzen Dame kommt zu spät. 23.h6 Qxb2 24.Rd7! Infolge der Mattdrohung auf f7 muß Schwarz einen Turm tauschen, das zwingt den anderen in die traurige Rolle eines Hüters der 8.Reihe. Nebenbei gewinnt Weiß den geopferten Bauern zurück. Rxd7 25.Qxa8+ Rd8 26.Qxa6± 1-0 (46) Karpov,A (2690)-Kortschnoj,V (2650) Merano 1981 Ruy Lopez

Open Variation-11.Be6 Ne6 12.cd4 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]
[14...c5 15.b4 Qd5 16.Nxc5 Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 *(17.gxf3 Qc6 18.Ne4 Bxb4 19.Rc1 Qb7 20.Qd6 Qxe4 21.Qxe6+ fxe6 22.fxe4 0-0 23.Rc6 Rfe8 24.Rfc1± ½ (47) Kotronias,V (2415)-Hort,V (2595) Thessaloniki 1988)* 17...Qxf3 18.gxf3 Nxc5 19.bxc5 Kd7 20.Rfb1 Rab8 21.Rb4 a5 22.Rg4 g6 23.Rc1 Ke6 24.c6 Rhc8 25.Rd4 Rb6 26.Rd6+ Bxd6 27.Bxb6 Kxe5 28.Bxa5 ½ (34) Friedel,J (2480)-Becerra Rivero,J (2546) Bellevue 2006]
15.Qc2 0-0
[15...Nxe3 16.Qc6+ Kf8 17.fxe3 Qe8 18.Qc3 h5 19.Nd4 Rh6 20.Rf2 Ng5 21.Nxg5 Bxg5 22.Rf5 Rg6 23.h4 Be7 24.Raf1 Kg8 25.Qb3 c5 26.Rxf7 Kh8 27.Qc2 Rg4 28.Ne6 Kg8 29.Nc7 1-0 (29) Caruana,F (2675)-Simacek,P (2518) Chur 2010]
16.Rad1
[16.Nf6+ This is considered harmless but, a player myself of the Open Spanish as Black, I knew it was not so easy in practice. Bxf6 17.Qxf5 Be7
A) 18.Rad1 Qc8
A1) 19.Nd2 Rd8 20.f4 *(20.f4 Nd4 21.Qe4 Nf5=; 20.f4 g6!?)* 20...c5 21.Qh3 Rd3? 22.Ne4 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Qc7 24.Nc3 Rd8 25.Nd5 Qb7 26.Qf3 Kh8 27.Nxe7 Qxe7 28.Rxd8+ Qxd8 29.f5± ½ (45) Van der Wiel,J (2515)-Kortschnoj,V (2635) Sarajevo 1984;
A2) 19.Qc2 c5 20.Nd2 Qc7 21.f4 c4 22.Ne4 Bc5 23.Qf2 Rac8 24.f5 Bxe3 25.Qxe3 Qxe5 26.fxe6 f5 27.Qc3 Qxe4 Tilak-Jakubovics/London LB (07) 1994/1-0 (43);
B) 18.Rfd1 Qc8 19.Rac1 Rd8 20.Rxd8+ Qxd8 21.Qe4 c5 22.b3 Ra7 23.g3 The new move based on the same idea, White is playing comfortably for the endgame. *(23.h3 Qa8 24.Nd2 Qxe4 25.Nxe4 Rc7 26.f4 c4 27.bxc4 Rxc4 28.Rxc4 bxc4 29.Kf2±* Bellin-Botterill, BCF-ch 1987*)* 23...g6 24.Kg2 Kg7 25.h4 h5 26.Rc2 Rd7? It was necessary to play 26...♕c7 or 26...♕b6 to avoid penetration via c6 27.Qc6! Rd1 28.Rd2 Rxd2 29.Nxd2 Nd4 30.Bxd4 cxd4 Puting all hopes in advancing quickly this passed pawn. *(30...Qxd4 31.Nf3+-)* 31.Ne4!! d3 32.Nd6
B1) 32...d2? 33.Qd5+-;
B2) 32...Bxd6 33.exd6 Kf6 34.Qd5 Qd7 was probably the best defence, but White should be winning. *(34...d2? 35.Qg5+!)*;
B3) 32...f6 33.Qd5± ½ (63) Rodriguez Cespedes,A (2520)-Sorin,A (2505) Matanzas 1995]
[16.Neg5 Das ist also Karpovs Zug, mit dem er hofft, Kortchnois Verbesserung im 14.Zug erfolgreich bekämpfen zu können.
A) 16...g6 17.Nxe6 fxe6 Unmöglich ist 17...Se3: s.Var.. *(17...Nxe3 18.Nxd8 Nxc2 19.Nc6!* Mit dem Verlust zweier Figuren gegen einen Turm.*)* 18.Bc5 Führt zu den gleiche Lähmungserscheinungen wie in der Partie.;
B) 16...Nxg5 17.Bxg5 Diese Fortsetzung ist ebenfalls nicht berauschend, weder bei 17...g6, noch bei 17...Sd4, noch bei 17...Lg5:.

B1) 17...Nd4 18.Nxd4 Bxg5 19.Rad1 Mit der Absicht f4 und Sc6.;
B2) 17...Bxg5 18.Qxf5 Be7 *(18...Bh6 19.Rad1)* 19.Rfd1;
B3) 17...g6 18.Rfd1 *(18.Rad1 Qe8 19.g4 Ng7 20.Bh6 Qc8 21.Qe4 c5 22.Ng5 Ra7 23.h3±* 1-0 (84) Adams,M (2728)-Golod,V (2591) Germany 2011 *)*;

C) 16...Bxg5 17.Nxg5 Um den schwarzen Läufer ist es wirklich schade.
C1) 17...Nxg5 18.Qxf5 Ne6 19.Rad1 Mit der Möglichkeit, De4 samt f4 sieht nicht gerade vertrauenerweckend aus. *(19.f4 g6 20.Qe4 f5 21.exf6 Qxf6 22.Qc6 Rae8 23.Rf2 Ng7 24.Qxf6 Rxf6 25.Bd4 Rc6 26.Be5=* 1-0 (36) Azarov,S (2600)-Simacek,P (2493) Budva 2009 *)*;
C2) 17...Ned4 18.Qe4 *(18.Bxd4 Qxg5 19.Bc5 Rfd8)* 18...h6 Oder auch g6, nicht aber 18...c5 19.Ld4: bzw. 18...f6 19.Sh7:.;
C3) 17...g6 18.Nxe6 fxe6 Schwarz müßte daran gelegen sein, alle Leichtfiguren zu tauschen. 19.Rae1 Wirkt im ersten Moment verblüffend, wird aber rasch klar, wenn man sich 19.Lc5 s.Var. betrachtet. Der Läufer auf e3 sowie das Feld e2 bedürfen zunächst einer Deckung. *(19.Bc5 Nd4 20.Qe4* Oder Dd1. *Rf4 21.Qxf4 Ne2+)* 19...Qd5 20.b3 Rac8 Bei 20...Se3: 21.Te3: stünde Schwarz den Drohungen Dc7: und Td1 recht hilflos gegenüber. 21.Bc5 Rfd8 22.h3 Qc6? Unverständlich! Warum gibt Kortchnoi diese starke Zentralstellung und damit den Angriff gegen e5 auf? 22...a5 bot sich an, um den Läufer in der Luft hän- genzulassen. Bei 23.a3 müßte Karpov mit Sd4 rechnen. 23.b4 ½-½ Karpov,A (2700)-Kortschnoj,V (2695)/Merano 1981/ (42)]

[16.Rfd1 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Qc8 18.Rac1 c5 19.Nd6 Qc6 20.Rd2 Ra7 21.Rcd1 c4 22.h4 Rc7= 1-0 (47) Naiditsch,A (2638)-Mikhalevski,V (2632) Heviz 2008]

16...Nxe3 17.fxe3 Qc8 Once it was thought that 18.♘d4 was the best alternative here. Recent examples have shown two other promising moves :

[17...Qe8 18.Nd4 Rd8 19.Nf5 *(19.Nxe6 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 fxe6 21.Qxc7 Qh5 22.Rf1 Rxf1+ 23.Kxf1 Qf5+ 24.Nf2 Qb1+ 25.Ke2 Qxb2+ 26.Kf3 Bf8 27.Ne4 Qxa2 28.Ng5 Qd5+ 29.Kg3 Kh8 30.Nf7+ Kg8 31.Ng5 Kh8 ½-½* (31) Van der Wiel,J (2590)-Kortschnoj,V (2625) Wijk aan Zee 1987*)* 19...Rxd1 20.Qxd1 Bd8 21.Qg4 Kh8 22.Nd4 Nxd4 23.exd4 Be7 24.d5**±** Andrijevic,M-Minic,C / Belgrade GMA-op 1988]

18.h3!?

[18.Rd3!? c5 19.Nd6
A) 19...Qb8 20.b3 *(20.Rfd1 Ra7 21.Rd5 Qa8 22.a4 Rd8 23.Qf5* ½-½ (23) Huebner,R (2625)-Hort,V (2545) Wijk aan Zee 1986 *)* 20...Ra7 21.Rfd1 Rd8 22.Nxf7!? **Δ** ♖xd8 and ♕xh7 with interesting complications, Stoica, V-Marin,M / Eforie-Nord 1988;
B) 19...Qc7 20.Rfd1 Rfd8 21.Rd5 Bf8 22.b3= ½ (44) Short,N (2650)-Beliavsky,A (2640) Barcelona 1989]

[18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.exd4 Qe6
A) 20.Qxc7 Rac8! 21.Qa5 Rc2 22.Rf2 *(22.Rd2? Rc4 23.a3 Bd8-+; 22.b3*

Rfc8 23.Rd2 Qd5! 24.Nf2 Bg5→)

A1) 22...Qg4?! 23.Qe1! *(23.Re1 Rxf2 24.Kxf2 f5 25.exf6 Bxf6)* 23...Bb4 *(23...Rfc8 24.h3 Qe6 25.d5 Qxe5 26.d6 Bd8 27.d7 R8c6 28.Ng5 f6 29.Qxe5 fxe5 30.Rxc2 Rxc2 31.Ne6+-* 1-0 (46) Klovans,J (2480)-Gyimesi,Z (2553) Pardubice 2003*)* 24.Nc3 Rxf2 *(24...Bxc3 25.bxc3 Rxc3 26.Qxc3 Qxd1+ 27.Rf1±)* 25.Kxf2 f6 26.exf6 Rxf6+ 27.Kg1= ½ (33) De Firmian,N (2595)-Hellers,F (2560) Biel 1989;

A2) 22...Rfc8! **Δ** 23...♕g4 23.Qe1□

A2a) 23...Rxf2! 24.Qxf2 Qxa2 25.d5 Qb3!

A2a1) 26.Qe2 Rc2 27.Qf3 *(27.Qg4 Rc1! 28.Rxc1 Qe3+-+)* 27...Qxf3 28.gxf3 a5!**∓**;

A2a2) 26.Qf3 Qxb2 27.d6 Bd8 *(27...Qxe5!! 28.dxe7 Qxe7∞)*

A2a21) 28.d7 Rc1 29.Nd6 Qd4+-+;

A2a22) 28.Rf1! Qa2! *(28...Qd4+ 29.Kh1 Qc4 30.d7 Rc7 31.Nd6 Qe6 32.Nxf7+-)* 29.Nf6+!→ Bxf6! 30.exf6 Qe6 31.Qg3 g6 32.Qf4 Kh8! 33.Rd1 a5 34.d7 Rd8 35.h3 b4**∞** 36.Rd6**±**;

A2a23) 28.e6= fxe6 29.Rf1 h6 30.Qf7+ Kh7 31.Qxe6 Bb6+ 32.Kh1 Rd8 33.Ng5+ hxg5 '=' ChessBase. 34.Qh3+ Kg8 35.Qe6+ Kh7=;

A2a24) 28.Nf6+ Kh8! 29.Nxh7 Rc1-+;

A2b) 23...h6!? 24.b3 Bh4 25.g3 Qg4 26.Rxc2 *(26.Rf4? Qxf4!+-)* 26...Rxc2 27.Nf2 Qf3N;

A2c) 23...Qxa2? 24.Nd6! R8c7 *(24...Bxd6? 25.Rxc2 Rxc2 26.exd6+- Rc8 27.d7 Rf8 28.Qe7 Qd5 29.Re1 Qxd4+ 30.Kh1 g6 31.Qxf8+ Kxf8 32.Re8+ Kg7 33.d8Q+-)* 25.Rxc2 Rxc2 26.Qe4**±** 1-0 Huebner,R (2620)-Ljubojevic,L (2615)/Tilburg 1985/ (42);

B) 20.a3 c6 21.Rf3 f6 22.Rc3 fxe5 23.Rxc6 Qd5 24.Rc7 Rae8 25.dxe5 Qxe5 26.Rcd7? Rf4!-+ 0-1 Sznapik,A (2485)-Hracek,Z (2390)/Stara Zagora 1990/ (27);

C) 20.Rd3 f6 21.Qxc7 fxe5 22.Qxe5 Rxf1+ 23.Kxf1 Rf8+ 24.Rf3 Qc4+ 25.Kf2 Bh4+ 26.Ke3 Qc1+ 27.Kd3 Qb1+ 28.Ke3 Qe1+ 29.Kd3 Qb1+ 30.Ke3 Qg1+ 31.Kd3 Qb1+ ½-½ (31) Almasi,Z (2685)-Acs,P (2550) Paks 2009;

D) 20.Rf3 c6 21.Rdf1 Rad8 22.Nf6+ Bxf6 23.exf6 Rxd4 24.fxg7 Kxg7 25.h3 f6 26.Qc5 Qd6= ½ (39) De Firmian,N (2515)-Huebner,R (2620) Oslo 1984;

E) 20.Ng3 c6 *(20...f6 21.Nf5 fxe5 22.Qb3* 1-0 (22) Chandler,M (2525)-Nunn,J (2600) Naestved 1985*; 20...c5 21.dxc5 Rfc8 22.b4 a5 23.a3 axb4 24.axb4 Qxe5 25.Rfe1 Qc7 26.Nf5 Bf8 27.Qe4± ½* (59) Wedberg,T (2475)-Morovic Fernandez,I (2535) New York 1988*)* 21.Nf5 Rfe8= 22.Rd3 Bf8 23.Rg3 *(23.a3 Ra7 24.Kh1 Rd7 25.b4* ½-½ (25) Bosiocic,M (2562)-Simacek,P (2518) Chur 2010*; 23.Rh3 g6 24.Nh6+ Bxh6 25.Rxh6 c5 26.dxc5 Qd5 27.Rh3 Rxe5 28.Rhf3 Ra7* ½-½ (28) Short,N (2575)-Jussupow,A (2600)

Montpellier 1985*)* 23...Ra7 24.Qc1 Kh8 25.Qg5 f6 26.exf6 Qxf6 27.Qxf6 gxf6 28.Rc3± 1-0 (85) Friedel,J (2530)-Mikhalevski,V (2670) Reno 2006]

[18.Ng3 Rd8 19.Nd4 Nxd4 20.exd4 c6 21.Nf5 Bf8= ½ (32) Sax,G (2610)-Hellers,F (2565) Haninge 1989]

18...Rd8

[18...c5 19.Nh2 Qc7 20.Ng4 Kh8 21.Nd6 Nd8 22.Rd5 c4 23.Nf6 Bxf6 24.exf6 g6 25.a4 Ne6 26.axb5 axb5 27.Nxb5± Ioseliani,N-Ekstrom,R / SWZ-ch-int 1989]

19.Nh2

[19.Rc1 c5 20.Qf2 Qb7 21.Nh2 Qxe4 22.Qxf7+ Kh8 23.Qxe6 Bg5 24.Kh1 Re8 25.Qf7 Qxe5 26.Ng4 Qe7 27.Qd5= ½ (46) Karpov,A (2710)-Jussupow,A (2565) Linares 1983]

19...Rxd1 20.Qxd1 Qe8

[20...Nc5 21.Qf3 Qe8 22.Ng3 Rd8 23.Ng4 Ne6 24.Nf5± 1-0 (57) Geller,E (2490)-Tal,M (2600) Sochi 1986]

21.Ng3

[21.Qh5 Nc5 22.Ng3 a5!! 23.Nf5 Ra6 24.Ng4 Rg6 25.b3 Bd8 26.Nf2 Qc6 27.e4 Qe8?! *(27...Nxe4 28.Qd1 Nd6 29.Ng4 Nb7 30.Rf2∓)* 28.Qd1∓ 1-0 (57) Tal,M (2605)-Kortschnoj,V (2625) Reykjavik 1987]

21...a5!? N 21...♖d8-48/453/ Schussler: 'This is a new and interesting idea. Black tries to improve by getting his rook into play along the sixth rank.'

[21...Rd8 22.Qc2 c5 23.Ng4 Rd7 *(23...c4! 24.Qe4 Rc8 25.Nf5 b4= 26.Nfh6+ gxh6 27.Nxh6+ Kh8 28.Nxf7+ Kg8 29.Qg4+ Ng7=* ½-½ (37) Prasad,D (2420)-Ernst,T (2525)/Gausdal 1991/*)* 24.Nf5 Kh8 25.Qe4 Qc8 26.Nd6 Bxd6 27.exd6 Rxd6 28.Rxf7 Ng5 29.Qb7 Rd1+ 30.Kh2 Qd8 31.Ne5 Rd5 32.Rf5!± Mokry,K-Ernst,T / Gausdal 1989]

22.Ng4

[22.Nf5 Ra6 23.Qd5 Bd8 24.Ng4 h5 25.Nh2 Nf8 26.Nf3 Rg6 ½-½ Watson,W (2470)-Flear,G (2470)/London 1990/ (36)]

22...Ra6 23.Nh5 Nf8 24.Qf3 Ng6= Mokry,K-Haba,P/Deutschland/1992/½-½/31/ 25.Qb7 Qc6 26.Qc8+ Bf8 27.Rf6 gxf6 28.Nh6+ Kh8 29.Nxf7+ Kg8 30.Nh6+ Kh8 31.Nf7+ ½-½ (31) Mokry,K (2535)-Haba,P (2515) Germany 1992 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-13.Ne4 Be7 14.Be3 Nf5 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

13.Nxd4?! Qxd4 14.Qe2

[14.Qf3 Rd8 15.Qc6+ *(15.a4 Bb4 16.Qc6+ Ke7 17.Nf3 Qd5 18.Qc2 Qd3 19.Qc6 Qd5 20.Qc2 Qd3 21.Qc6 Qd5* ½-½ (21) Sprenger,J (2505)-Acs,P (2518) Germany 2005*)* 15...Qd7 16.Qxa6 *(16.Qe4 Be7 17.Nf3 0-0 18.Be3 c5 19.a4 f5 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.axb5 axb5 22.Ra6 Rfe8 23.Qb1 Qd5∓* ½ (53) Ortiz Suarez,I (2609)-Wehmeier,S (2433) Barcelona 2013*)* 16...Qd5! *(16...Bb4 17.Nf3 Qd5⩱)* 17.Qa5 *(17.Nb1 Bb4 18.Qa7 Qxe5 19.Qe3 Qxe3 20.Bxe3 Rd3 21.a3 Ba5 22.b4 Bb6 23.Bxb6 cxb6=* 0-1 (41) Hong,A (2444)-Baryshpolets,A (2569) Chess.com INT 2020*)* 17...Be7 18.Nf3 g5 19.Be3 g4 20.Nd2 Qxe5 21.Qc3 Bd6 22.g3 0-0 23.a4 bxa4 24.Qxe5 Bxe5 25.Rxa4= ½ (48) Harikrishna,P

(2729)-Mamedyarov,S (2817) Kolkata 2018]
[14.Qc2 c5 15.Nf3 Qd5 16.Rd1 Qc6 17.Ng5 Velimirovic-Szmetan, Buenos Aires 1978]
[14.a4 Rd8 15.axb5 axb5 16.Qc2 Bc5 17.Nf3 Qd3 18.Qxd3 Rxd3 19.Ra8+ Rd8 20.Ra5 Rd5 21.Ra8+ Rd8 22.Ra5 Rd5 23.Ra8+ Rd8 ½-½ (23) Vitiugov,N (2731)-Jones,G (2665) London 2021]
14...Rd8 15.a4 Qd5!
[15...Qd3 16.Qxd3 Rxd3 17.axb5 axb5 18.Ne4]
[15...c6 Ftacnik 16.axb5 axb5 17.Nf3↑]
16.axb5 axb5 17.Qe4
[17.Ra5? Bb4 18.Rxb5 Nd4!-+]
[17.f4∞ Ftacnik]
[17.Nf3 Ftacnik Be7 18.Be3 0-0=]
17...Bc5
[17...Be7 18.Qxd5 Rxd5 19.Ra8+ Rd8 20.Rxd8+ Kxd8 21.Ne4 Δ ♗e3, f4]
18.Qxd5 Rxd5 19.Ne4 Bd4
[19...0-0 20.Nxc5 Rxc5 21.f4=]
20.Nc3 Bxc3
[20...Rxe5? Ftacnik 21.Ra8+ Nd8 22.Bf4! *(22.Rd1 Ke7 23.Bf4 Bxc3 24.bxc3 Rc5)* 22...Rf5 *(22...Bxc3 23.Bxe5 Bxe5 24.Re1 f6 25.f4±; 22...Re7 23.Nxb5 Bb6 24.Rd1 Rd7 25.Nxc7+ Bxc7 26.Re1+ Re7 27.Rxe7+ Kxe7 28.Bxc7+-)* 23.Bxc7 Kd7 24.Bxd8+-]
21.Ra8+ Rd8
[21...Nd8 Ftacnik 22.bxc3 Rxe5? 23.Rd1 Ke7 24.f4 Re6 25.Ba3++-]
22.Rxd8+ Kxd8 23.bxc3 Ke7
[23...g5!? 24.h4 h6 *(24...g4 25.f3)*]
[23...h5 Ftacnik 24.f4 g6∓]
24.f4 f5
[24...g6 Ftacnik 25.g4=]
25.exf6+ Kxf6= 0-1 Adams,M (2640)-Anand,V (2720)/Linares 1994/ (45)

[68] **13...Be7** The main line and most popular alternative. are also playable. 14.Nxd4
[14.axb5 Nxb5 15.Ne4 *(15.Qc2 0-0 16.Nb3 c5 17.Be3 Qb6 18.Ra4 Rfb8 19.Na5 Rc8 20.Qe4 Nbd4 21.Nxd4 cxd4 22.Bxd4 Nxd4 23.Qxd4 ½-½ (23) Sax,G (2575)-Jussupow,A (2570) Sofia 1984)* 15...0-0 16.Be3 c5 17.Ra4 Qb8 18.Qa1 Nbd4 19.Bxd4 cxd4 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.Rxd4 Qxe5 22.Rfd1 Rfd8 23.b3 Rxd4 24.Qxd4 Qxd4 25.Rxd4 ½-½ (25) Huebner,R (2610)-Jussupow,A (2635) Tilburg 1987]
14...Nxd4 Wedberg
[14...Qxd4 15.axb5 Bologan: 'Until now this line was considered as equal but the way Topalov won this game says that it is not so easy for Black to get back its pawn.' Qxe5 16.bxa6 0-0 Bologan: 'In this position White has many opportunities to continue the game but nor 18.Nf3 neather 18.Qg4 does not give White any

advantage. '

A) 17.Nf3 Qb5 18.Qa4 *(18.a7 Bc5 19.Be3 Bxe3 20.fxe3 Qb6 21.Qa4 Qxe3+ 22.Kh1 Rfd8 23.Rfe1 Qb6 24.Ne5± 1-0 (32) Carlsen,M (2570)-Agdestein,S (2582) Oslo 2005)* 18...Qxa4 19.Rxa4 Nc5 20.Rc4 Wedberg *(20.Ra5 Rxa6 21.Rxa6 Nxa6 22.Bd2 Bf6 23.Bc3 Bxc3 24.bxc3 ½-½ (24) Psakhis,L (2500)-Dolmatov,S (2545) Frunze 1981)* 20...Rxa6 21.Nd4 Ra4 22.Rxa4 Nxa4 23.b3 Nb6 24.Nb5 Nd5 25.Rd1 Rd8 26.Ba3 Nf4 27.Rxd8+ Bxd8 28.Kf1 Ne6 48 ½-½ Adams,M-Sokolov,I/Leon (04) ;CBM 1995;

B) 17.Qg4 Qb5 18.Qc4 Rfb8 19.Ra2 Ra7 20.Rd1 Qxc4 21.Nxc4 Rba8 22.Be3 Rxa6 23.Rxa6 ½-½ De Firmian,N (2605)-Timman,J (2590)/Biel 1995/;

C) 17.Re1 Wedberg Qb5 18.Qa4 *(18.Qe2 Qxe2 19.Rxe2 Ra7 20.Nc4 ½-½ (20) Huebner,R (2595)-Brunner,L (2525) Munich 1990)* 18...Qxa4 19.Rxa4 Nc5 20.Ra3 Ne6 21.Ra1 Ra7 22.Nf3 ½-½ Popovic,P-Grivas,E/Dubai olm (02)/1986/;

D) 17.Qa4 '!'

D1) 17...Rfb8

D1a) 18.Nf3 Qb5 19.a7 Rb7 20.Qxb5 *(20.Be3 Qxa4 21.Rxa4 Bc5 22.Rfa1 Rxb2 23.Ne5 Rb7 24.Nc6 Bxe3 25.fxe3 Kf8 26.Rd1± ½ (32) Hellers,F (2510)-Ernst,T (2540) Sweden 1992)* 20...Rxb5 21.Be3 Bf6 22.Ra2 Kf8 23.Nd2 Bd4 24.Nc4 Rb7 25.Rfa1 Bxe3 26.fxe3**±** Hjartarson,J-Smejkal,J/BL 8990 (1990) ;BL 1990/½-½ (53);

D1b) 18.a7 Rb7 19.Nf3 Qd5 20.Be3 Bc5 21.Rad1 Qb3 22.Qxb3 Rxb3 23.Bxc5 Nxc5 24.Nd4 Rb7 25.Nc6+- 1-0 (41) Ehlvest,J (2600)-Marin,M (2495) Tallinn 1989;

D2) 17...Nc5 18.Qc4 Rfb8 19.Ra5 Qd6 20.Ne4 Nxe4 21.Qxe4 Qb4 22.Qxb4 Bxb4 23.Ra4 Bologan: 'Novelty.Nowdays it is not a big deal when you shaw an improvement in the very deep ending. Rooks mission on 'a4' is to attack the Black's bishop that creates a certain problems to have the pawn back. Before was played 23.♖a2.' Rb6 24.a7 Bc5 25.Rd1

D2a) 25...h6? '??' Kortschnoj is just waisting time after 26.b4 '**±**!'

D2a1) 26...Bxb4 27.Be3 c5 28.Rd7 *(28.Bf4* Wedberg *Rb7 29.Bb8±)* 28...Bd2 29.Kf1 Bxe3 30.fxe3**±**;

D2a2) 26...Rxb4 27.Rxb4 Bxb4 28.Be3 '+-' Kf8 *(28...c5 29.Rd7 c4 30.Bb6+-; 28...Ba5 29.Rd7 +-)* 29.Rb1 1-0 Topalov,V-Kortschnoj,V/ Madrid 1996/ (29);

D2b) 25...Rb7= 26.Be3 Bxe3 27.fxe3 Kf8 28.Rda1 Rxb2 Black is equalizing the game. Ruy Lopez Open Variation-12.cd4 Ncd4 13.a4 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

15.axb5

[15.Ne4

A) 15...Ne6 16.Be3 0-0 17.f4 Qxd1 *(17...g6 18.Qf3; 17...f5 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Qb3)* 18.Rfxd1**±** Rfb8 *(18...f5 19.exf6 gxf6 20.f5 Ng7 21.g4 h5; 18...Rad8 19.axb5 axb5 20.f5 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 Rd8 22.Rc1 Nd4 23.f6*

Ne2+ 24.Kf2 Nxc1 25.fxe7 Re8 26.Bxc1 Rxe7 27.Bf4± 1-0 (66) Adams,M (2660)-Unzicker,W (2450) Germany 1996*)* 19.Rd7 Bf8 20.f5 Nd8 Alle schwarzen Figuren sind auf die 8.Reihe gedrängt worden. Der weiße Raumvorteil ist eklatant. Das mögliche schwarze Gegenspiel b5xa4 wird von Karpov verhindert. 21.a5 Nc6 22.e6 fxe6 23.f6 Paralysiert die schwarze Stellung. Vielleicht wäre 23...Tb8-d8 noch der beste Versuch. Untauglich dagegen wäre 23…Tb8-c8 .. Ne5 *(23...Rc8 24.Rc1 Nxa5 25.Bc5 Nb3 26.Bxf8)* 24.Rxc7 Rc8 25.Rac1 Rxc7 26.Rxc7 Rd8 27.h3 h6 *(27...Rd7 28.Rc8 Rf7 29.fxg7 Rxg7 30.Bh6 Rf7 31.Ng5)* 28.Ra7**±** Jetzt wendet sich der Weltmeister liebevoll der Schwäche auf a6 zu. Kortschnoj steht vor dem Verlust dieser Partie und damit des ganzen Weltmeisterschaftskampfes. 1-0 (41) Karpov,A (2690)-Kortschnoj,V (2650) Merano 1981;

B) 15...0-0 16.axb5 Nxb5 17.Be3 Qc8 18.Qc2 *(18.Qd5± Rd8 19.Qc6 Qf5 20.f4 h5 21.h3 Rab8 22.Rfd1±* 1-0 (56) Chandler,M (2585)-Jussupow,A (2610) Hastings 1989*)* 18...Qe6 19.f4 f6 *(19...Rad8 20.Ra4 Rd7 21.Rfa1 Qd5 22.h3±* ½-½ Adams,M-Yusupov,A/Hastings-A1 1989 (36) *)* 20.exf6 *(20.Nc5 Bxc5 21.Bxc5 Rfe8 22.Rae1 f5 23.Re3 Rad8 24.Rd3±* 1-0 (36) Tkachiev,V (2535)-Yakovich,Y (2515) Hastings 1994*)* 20...Bxf6 21.f5 Qe5 22.Bc5**±** ½ (32) Ivanchuk,V (2635)-Jussupow,A (2610) Linares 1989]

[15.Nb3 Ne6 16.Na5 Qxd1 17.Rxd1 Rd8 18.Be3 f6 19.axb5 axb5 20.Nc6 Rxd1+ 21.Rxd1 fxe5 22.Rd5 e4 23.Rxb5 Kd7 24.Nxe7 Kxe7 25.Rb4**±** 1-0 (33) De Firmian,N (2549)-Schneider,D (2466) Las Vegas 2005]

15...Nxb5

[15...axb5 16.Rxa8 Qxa8 17.Qg4 Ne6 18.f4 Qd5 19.f5 Qd4+ 20.Qxd4 Nxd4 21.Ne4 Ne2+ 22.Kf2 Nxc1 23.Rxc1**±** 1-0 (38) Djukic,N (2521)-Radulski,J (2502) Vrnjacka Banja 2005]

16.Qc2!? N

[16.Qg4 0-0 17.Nf3 Qc8 18.Qg3 Qe6 19.Ra4→ f5 20.Bg5 Rfe8 21.Bxe7 Rxe7 22.Ng5 Qd5 23.Nxh7 Qxe5 24.Qf3 Rd8 25.Ng5**±** Oll,L-Vucic,M/New York op (06) 1994/1-0 (67)]

16...0-0 17.Nf3 Nd4! 18.Nxd4 Qxd4 19.Qxc7 Bb4!= Kindermann,S-Mikhalchishin,A/Dortmund/1993/½-½/ 20.e6 fxe6 21.Qc6 Qd6 22.Qe4 Bc5 23.Be3 Bxe3 ½-½ Kindermann,S-Mikhalchishin,A/Dortmund op-A (09) 1993

13...Bc5 A strange idea, as Black will have to lose another tempo with this bishop. Black has many options in this position, and I guess that this move was chosen mainly in the hope of surprising Kramnik. It is possible that Mamedyarov based his preparation on the many correspondence games which have reached this position. 14.Ne4

[14.Nb3 Nxb3 15.Qxb3

A) 15...Rb8?! 16.axb5 axb5 17.Rd1 *(17.Be3 Bxe3 18.Qxe3 0-0 19.Rfd1 Qe7 20.Nd4 Nxd4 21.Rxd4 Rfd8 22.Rad1 h6 23.f4 Rxd4* ½-½ (23) Wang,H (2722)-Mamedyarov,S (2740) Baku 2022 *)* 17...Qc8 18.Ng5**±**;

B) 15...0-0! 16.axb5 axb5 *(16...Qb8 17.Be3 Bxe3 18.Qxe3 Qxb5 19.Nd4*

Nxd4 ½-½ (19) Lutz,C (2596)-Landa,K (2571) Germany 2004 *)* 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Qxb5 h6⩲ *(18...Qd5⩲)* 19.Qc4 Rd8 20.h3 Qb7 21.Qc2 Qd5 22.Re1 Bb4 23.Rf1 Bc5 24.Re1 Bb4 25.Rf1 ½-½ (25) Adams,M (2640)-Sokolov,I (2625) Moscow 1994]

[14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.Nf3 0-0 16.Qe2 Qd5 17.Rd1 c5 18.Kf1 ½-½ (18) Berg,E (2589)-Ernst,T (2456) Gothenburg 2006]

14...Bb6

[14...0-0? Just a blunder it was better not to look at Vishi's face when he saw the consequense of this move. I guess he rejected the normal 14... ♗b6 because of next game. 15.Nxc5 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 Nxc5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Bg5! Rxa1 Wedberg: The point of Anands novelty is to give away the queen and build a drawing endgame fortress. 19.Bxd8 Rxf1+ 20.Kxf1 Rxd8 21.g3± ½-½ Topalov,V (2700)-Anand,V (2725)/Dos Hermanas 1996/ (30) It is not so easy to improve White's position as it looks from the first sight. *(21.h4 Ne6 22.h5 c5 23.h6 b4 24.g3 gxh6 25.Qg4+ Kf8 26.Qh5 c4 27.Qxh6+± ½* (43) Sychev,K (2550)-Bologan,V (2574) Warsaw 2021*; 21.Qc6 Ne6 22.Qxb5?? Rd1+ 23.Ke2 Nd4+-+)* 21...Ne6 22.Qb7 c5 23.Qxb5 g6 24.Kg2 *(24.h4* Wedberg: After this move the draw is a mathematical certainty. The only hope was to press through g4 and f5 to drive the gigantic knight away, but it looks very difficult - especially if Black posts his ♖ on d4. *h5 25.b4?!* After this exchange White has no one chance to win the game. Better was to keep the 'b' pawn and to try to speculate with both ideas 'f4-f5' and penetration to the White's king on the queenside. *cxb4 26.Qxb4 Kg7 27.Kg2 Kg8 28.Qc3 Ra8 29.Qf3 Rb8 30.Qe3* ½-½ (30) Topalov,V (2700)-Anand,V (2725) Dos Hermanas 1996*)* 24...Rd4 25.Qe2 Rb4 26.Qd2 Kg7 27.Qc3± ½ (49) Vuckovic,B (2563)-Todorovic,G (2479) Subotica 2008]

15.Nfg5! A strong novelty found over the board. White attempts to remove the strong blockader on e6.

[15.Nxd4 Bxd4 *(15...Qxd4! 16.Qxd4 Nxd4 17.axb5 Nxb5=)* 16.Ng5 *(16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Ng5 Qd5 19.Be3 Nxg5 20.Qxd4 Qxd4 21.Bxd4 Ne6 22.Be3 g5=* 0-1 (50) Kotronias,V (2505)-Flear,G (2500) Athens 1989 *)*

A) 16...Nxg5 17.Bxg5 Qxg5 *(17...Bxf2+ 18.Rxf2 Qxg5 19.axb5±)* 18.Qxd4 0-0 19.Qc5±;

B) 16...Bxe5 17.Nxe6 Qxd1 *(17...fxe6 18.Qh5++-)* 18.Rxd1! fxe6 19.axb5±;

C) 16...0-0 17.axb5 *(17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.axb5? Bxf2+∓)* 17...Nxg5 18.Bxg5 Bxf2+ 19.Rxf2 Qxg5 20.bxa6 Qxe5 21.Kh1? *(21.Qf1!?±* Recommended by Tischbierek*.; 21.Qa4 Qe3 22.a7 Qb6 23.Qa5 Rfe8 24.Qd5 Rf8 25.Qa5 Rfe8 26.Qxb6 cxb6 27.Rc2 Kf8 28.Rc6 Re7 29.Rxb6 Rexa7* ½-½ (29) Efimenko,Z (2572)-Bauer,C (2590) Biel 2004*)* 21...Qb5!= ½-½ Tischbierek,R (2460)-Chekhov,V (2495)/Potsdam 1985/]

[15.Be3 0-0

A) 16.a5! Ba7 17.Nxd4 Bxd4 18.Bxd4 Qxd4 19.Qxd4 Nxd4 20.Nc5 Rfd8 21.Rfd1 Rd5!!= **Δ** c7-c6,♔f8-e7;

B) 16.Nxd4 Bxd4 17.Bxd4 Qxd4 18.Qxd4 Nxd4 19.Rfd1 *(19.f4 Rfd8*

20.axb5 axb5 21.Kf2 Kf8 22.Rfc1 Rxa1 23.Rxa1 Nc2 24.Rc1 Rd4 25.Rxc2 Rxe4 26.Kf3 Rb4= ½ (45) Short,N (2702)-Delchev,A (2602) Belfort 2004 *)*
19...Rfd8 20.Nc5 bxa4= Sammaluno,T-Ernst,T/Gausdal/1994/;
C) 16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Nxd4 Bxd4 19.Nf6+ gxf6 20.Bxd4 Rd8 21.Qg4+ Kh8 22.Be3 Rg8 23.Qh3 fxe5∓ ½ (37) Georgiev,K (2675)-Gyimesi,Z (2505) Vrnjacka Banja 1998]
[15.Re1!? 'N!?' 0-0 16.Nfg5 *(16.Be3!?)* 16...h6 *(16...Ba5!=)* 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.a5!? Ba7 19.Ra3 *(19.Qg4)* 19...Qd5 20.Nf6+! *(20.Bxh6 gxh6 21.Qh5 Nf5 22.Qg6+ Kh8 23.Nf6=)* 20...gxf6 21.Bxh6
A) 21...Nf5 22.Qg4+ *(22.Rg3+ Kh7 23.Qh5 Nxg3 24.hxg3 Rf7! 25.Qxf7+ Kxh6 26.Qxf6+ Kh7=)* 22...Kf7 23.Bxf8 Rxf8 24.Rc3 c5 25.Qh5+ Ke7 26.Qh7+ Rf7 27.exf6+ Kxf6∞;
B) 21...Kf7?? 22.Qh5+ Ke7 23.exf6+! Kxf6 *(23...Kd6 24.Bf4+ Kc6 25.Rc3+ Bc5 26.Re5+-; 23...Kd7 24.Qxd5+ exd5 25.Re7+ Kc6 26.Rc3+ Bc5 27.Bxf8 Rxf8 28.b4+-)* 24.Re5?? *(24.Bg7+!! Kxg7 25.Rg3+ Kf6 26.Rg6+ Kf7 27.Rg5++-)*
B1) 24...Qd6!! 25.Rae3 *(25.Bxf8 Rxf8 26.Qg5+ Kf7 27.Rae3 Ke8∓)* 25...Ke7!! 26.Rd5 Ne2+!! 27.Rxe2 Rxf2!! 28.Rxd6 Rf5+ 29.Be3 Rxh5∓;
B2) 24...Qxe5?? 25.Bg7+!+- 1-0 Stellwagen,D (2524)-Ernst,S (2509)/Wijk aan Zee 2005/ (34)]
[15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Qxa8 17.Nxd4 Qxe4 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Be3 Bxe3 20.fxe3 Qxe5 21.Qf3 Ke7 22.Kh1 Qf5 23.Qe2=]
15...Nxg5
[15...h6 16.Qh5→]
[15...0-0?± Now both 16.♕d3 or 16.♕h5 promise a dangerous attack.]
[15...Qd5 '!' Mamedyarov was still blitzing out his moves. 16.Nxe6 *(* The calm yet mysterious *16.Re1* is the engine's suggestion, although it is unclear why this is an improvement. *0-0 17.Qd3 Nxg5 18.Nxg5 g6 19.Ne4 Qxe5 20.Bg5 Qf5 21.Be7 Rfc8 22.a5 Ba7 23.Qd2±* 1-0 (46) Hracek,Z (2579)-Gyimesi,Z (2618) Rabac 2004*)* 16...Qxe6 *(16...fxe6?* would be a mistake as it exposes the black king: *17.Qh5+ g6 18.Nf6+ Kf7 19.Qh4+-* with an ongoing initiative. *)* 17.axb5
A) 17...a5 It is likely that this was still preparation. 18.b4 a4
A1) While analysing the position, I stumbled across one dramatic and fascinating line: 19.Nc5 Qc4!? *(19...Bxc5 20.bxc5 Nb3 21.Ra3 0-0 22.Be3±)* 20.Rxa4 Rd8 21.Bg5! (willingly allowing ...Ne2+) f6 *(21...Ne2+? 22.Kh1 Rxd1 23.Ra8+ Rd8 24.Rxd8#)* 22.exf6 Ne2+ 23.Qxe2+ Qxe2 24.fxg7 Rg8 25.Bxd8 and despite the material imbalance, play should end in a draw: Rxg7 26.Bf6 Rxg2+ 27.Kxg2 Qg4+ 28.Kh1 Qf3+ 29.Kg1 Qg4+;
A2) 19.Be3 Both sides have several options on every move. Unfortunately it is impossible to cover all the variations. 19...Qxe5 20.Nc3 Ne6 21.Bxb6 The game now fizzles out. *(21.Qd5* is tempting, but also leads to nothing: *Qxd5 22.Nxd5 Bxe3 23.fxe3 0-0 24.Ne7+ Kh8 25.Nc6=* it appears that this strong knight paralyses Black's rooks, but in reality White's broken pawn

structure means that he cannot hope to win. *a3)* 21...Qxc3 22.Bc5 Nxc5 23.bxc5 0-0 24.Rxa4 Qxc5= ½ (31) Kramnik,V (2777)-Mamedyarov,S (2817) Wijk aan Zee 2019;

B) 17...Nxb5 should be fine too, though 18.Ng5 would force Black to be accurate. Qg6 19.e6 0-0 20.exf7+ Kh8 21.Ra4 h6 22.Nf3 Qxf7 23.Rf4 Qh5 24.Re1 Rad8 25.Rxf8+ Rxf8 26.Be3 Re8= ½-½ Leko,P-Gyimesi,Z/ Ulcinj 1997/ (33)]

[15...Qd7 16.axb5 Qxb5 17.Qh5 Nxg5 18.Bxg5 Qe2 19.Qh4 Nf5 20.Qf4 Nd4 21.Qh4 Nf5 22.Qf4 Nd4 23.Rfe1± 1-0 (31) Sutovsky,E (2642)-Mikhalevski,V (2632) Israel 2008]

16.Bxg5

[16.Nxg5 h6 17.Qh5 0-0!? 18.Ne4 Qd5!∞]

16...Qd7

[16...Qd5 17.Nc3 *(17.Re1!?±)* 17...Qc6 18.axb5 axb5 19.Rxa8+ Qxa8 20.Qg4±]

17.axb5?!

[17.Re1! 0-0 18.Ra3!→ Rodriguez,Am]

17...Qxb5 18.Nc3 Qd7!=

[18...Qxb2? 19.Qa4+!±]

19.Qa4 Qxa4 20.Nxa4 h6!= '!'

[20...0-0 21.Rfd1 Ne6 22.Nxb6 cxb6 23.Be3±]

21.Nxb6 cxb6 22.Bd2 ½-½ Rodriguez Cespedes,A (2515)-Korneev,O (2505)/ Barbera 1994/ 22...Nb3 23.Rad1 Nxd2 24.Rxd2 Ke7= Ruy Lopez Open Variation-12.cd4 Ncd4 13.a4 Bc5 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

13...Rb8 and 14.axb5 axb5 15.Ne4

[15.Nxd4 Qxd4 16.Qf3 Bb4 17.Qc6+ ½-½ Xie Jun-Polgar,Zsu/Moscow olw/ 1994]

[15.Nb3 Nxb3 16.Qxb3 Be7 17.Be3 0-0 18.Qc2 c5 19.Ra7 Ra8 20.Rb7 Rb8 21.Ra7 Ra8 22.Rb7 Rb8 23.Ra7 Ra8 ½-½ (23) Saric,I (2653)-Mamedyarov,S (2782) Zagreb 2021]

15...Be7

[15...Qd5 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Nc3 *(17.Ng3 g6 18.Be3 Rd8 19.Bg5 Be7 20.Bxe7 Kxe7 21.Qg4 Ne6 22.Qh4+ g5 23.Qb4+ Qc5 24.Qe4±* ½ (44) Navara,D (2741)-Mamedyarov,S (2801) Biel 2018 *)* 17...Qc4 18.Be3 Nf5 19.Qf3 Nh4 20.Qh3 Be7 21.Rfd1 0-0 22.Nd5 Bd8 23.e6± 1-0 De Firmian,N-Abdel Megid,M/WchT Luzern 1989 (39)]

16.Be3

[16.Nd6+ cxd6 17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.Qxd4 dxe5 19.Qxe5 0-0 20.Bf4 Rb7 21.Qe4 Rd7 22.Qc6 ½-½ Nunn,J-Timman,J/Amsterdam OHRA 1985 *(22.Be3 Qb8* ½-½ Boudre,J-Flear,G/Paris-ch 1989 *)*]

[16.Nxd4 Qxd4 17.Qxd4 Nxd4 18.Ra7 Rc8 19.Be3 Nc6 20.Rb7 Nxe5 21.Bd4 f6 22.Bxe5 fxe5 23.Rd1= 1-0 (60) Zelcic,R (2589)-Simacek,P (2477) Kallithea 2008]

16...Nf5 17.Ba7
[17.Qc2 Nxe3 18.fxe3 0-0 19.Rad1 Qc8 20.Nd4 Nxd4 21.exd4±]
17...Qxd1 18.Rfxd1 Rd8
[18...Ra8 19.g4 Nh4 20.Nxh4 Bxh4 21.Be3 Ke7 22.f4 Rhd8 23.Kg2 Rxa1 24.Rxa1 Rd3 25.Ra3 Rxa3 26.bxa3 Kd7= 0-1 (40) Nijboer,F (2568)-Reinderman,D (2506) Dieren 2007]
19.g4 '!' 19...Rxd1+
[19...Nh6 20.h3±]
[19...Nh4 20.Nxh4 Bxh4 21.Rxd8+ Bxd8 22.Be3 0-0 *(22...h5 23.h3 hxg4 24.hxg4 Kd7 25.Kg2 Be7 26.f4±* 1-0 (38) Berg,E (2606)-Simacek,P (2493) Budva 2009 *)* 23.f4 f5! 24.gxf5 Rxf5 25.Ra8 Rf8 26.f5 Be7! 27.Ra6 Nd8±]
20.Rxd1 Nh6?!
[Smirin 20...Nh4 21.Nxh4 Bxh4
A) 22.Rd5!
A1) Mikhalevski,V 22...h5! 23.f3 *(⩬23.gxh5?! c6!* Δ♖h5*; 23.h3* '±' Wedberg. '±' *Nf4)* 23...hxg4 24.fxg4 Be1!= Δ♖h4;
A2) 22...b4 23.Rb5 Be7 24.Rb8+ Nd8 25.Bc5±;
A3) 22...0-0 23.Rxb5±;
A4) 22...c6 23.Rd6 Nd8 24.Bb6 Be7 25.Bxd8! Bxd8 *(25...Bxd6 26.Nxd6+ Kxd8 27.Nxf7+ Ke7 28.Nxh8+-)* 26.Rxc6±;
B) 22.Be3? 0-0± ½-½ Smirin,I-Huebner,R/Polanica Zdroj 1995 (41)]
21.h3 ×h6 21...f5 22.exf6 gxf6 ×h7,f6,b5 23.Be3 Nf7
[23...f5 24.Bxh6 fxe4
A) 25.Nd2 Bg5 26.Bxg5 Nxg5 27.Kg2 0-0 28.Re1 Re8 *(28...Nf3 29.Nxf3 exf3+ 30.Kg3±)* 29.Re2! Δh4±;
B) 25.Nd4! Kf7 *(25...Nxd4 26.Rxd4±)* 26.Nxe6 Kxe6 27.Rd4!±]
24.Nd4!± ½-½ Hansen,C (2605)-Sokolov,I (2615)/Malmo 1997/ (40)

13...b4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Nb3 c5 16.Nxd4 cxd4 17.Qf3 Ra7 18.Rd1 Be7 19.Qg4 g6 20.Bh6 Rd7 21.e6
[21.Rac1!]
21...Rd6 22.Bg7 Rg8 23.exf7+ Kxf7 24.Bxd4± ½ (60) Huebner,R (2620)-Polgar,S (2500) San Francisco 1995

13...Nc6 14.Qe2 Be7 15.Ne4 0-0 16.Rd1 Qc8 17.h4 Qb7 18.Bg5 bxa4 19.Rxa4 Qb5 20.Qxb5 axb5 21.Rxa8 Rxa8 22.Bxe7 Nxe7 23.Neg5= ½ (40) Saric,I (2644)-Van Foreest,J (2691) Riga 2021

[69] **14.Nxd4** The temporary pawn sacrifice 14...Qxd4 activates the queen and leaves White slightly underdeveloped.
[14...Nxd4 Black makes a curious novely in a variation where things were supposed to be OK for him.
A) 15.axb5 could lead to similar positions after a5 *(15...axb5!? 16.Rxa8 Qxa8 17.Qg4±)* 16.Nb3 *(16.Nf3* transposes to the game.*)* 16...Nxb3 17.Qxb3 0-0 18.Rd1 Qe8 The white queen is probably better placed on f3, because it keeps

the a8-rook and the f7-square under pressure at the same time.;
B) 15.Nf3 Nxf3+ 16.Qxf3 0-0 17.axb5 a5 Black consolidates his bishop and hopes to obtain compensation on light squares. *(* However, I wonder whether Black had intended to play that from the beginning or whether he simply noticed too late that *17...axb5?* loses to *18.Rxa8 Qxa8 19.Qg4 c5 20.Bh6+-)* 18.Rd1 Qe8 19.Rd5 c6 20.bxc6 Qxc6 21.Be3 *(21.Bf4 Qc2 22.b3±)* offered White chances to consolidate his material advantage.*)* 21...Qc2 22.Qd1?! *(22.Bd4 Rad8∞; 22.Rd7! Rad8 23.Qd1!±* maintains White's minimal material advantage.*)* 22...Qxb2 23.Bd4 Bc3= ½ (31) Nijboer,F (2606)-Howell,D (2518) Dresden 2007]

15.Qe2

["Winning" pawns with 15.axb5 0-0
A) 16.bxa6 '?!' looks too risky, because of the pin along the d-file. Rfd8 17.Qf3 *(17.Qc2 Bxd2 18.Rd1 Bxc1! 19.Rxd4 Nxd4 20.Qxc7 Bxb2∓)* 17...Bxd2 18.Rd1 Bxc1 19.Rxd4 Nxd4 20.Qb7 Navara,D (2646)-Hracek,Z (2581)/ Czechia 2005/EXT 2007 (½-½, 36) Rdb8 *(20...Ra7!! 21.Qxa7 Nc6 22.Rxc1 Nxa7∓)* 21.Qxc7 Bxb2 22.a7 Re8 23.Ra5 Ne6= ½ (36) Navara,D (2646)-Hracek,Z (2581) Czech Republic 2005;
B) 16.Rxa6? Rad8 17.Qc2 Bxd2 18.Rd1 Bxc1 19.Rxd4 Nxd4-+ Predojevic;
C) 16.Qa4 Bxd2 17.Qxd4 Nxd4 18.Bxd2 Nb3 19.Rad1 axb5 20.Bc3 c5↑;
D) 16.Nf3 ½-½ (16) Motylev,A (2663)-Ghaem Maghami,E (2566) Moscow 2017 16...Qxd1 17.Rxd1 axb5 18.Be3 c5 19.Kf1 c4 20.Nd4 c3 21.Rxa8 Rxa8 22.bxc3 Bxc3 23.Nxb5 Bxe5 ½-½ (23) Djukic,N (2521)-Predojevic,B (2543) Vrnjacka Banja 2005]

[15.Qc2 0-0 16.Nf3 Qc4 17.Qxc4 bxc4 18.Be3 c3 19.bxc3 Bxc3 20.Rac1 Ba5 Otero,D (2400)-Alonso,R (2387)/Santa Clara 2005/CBM 105 ext (½-½, 41). The e6-knight ensures Black almost absolute stability in the centre.]

15...0-0 16.Nf3 Qd5

[16...Qc4 transposes above.]

17.Be3 Rfd8 18.Qc2 c5= 19.Rfd1 Qc6 20.h3 c4⇄ Passerotti,P-Thipsay,P (2430)/ Lucerne 1982/EXT 97-B (½-½, 26). Black has an active queenside position, while the other wing is safely defended by his knight.

14.Ne4 0-0

[14...Qd5 15.Nxd4 Nxd4 16.Nc3 Qc4 17.axb5 Bxc3 18.bxc3 Ne2+ 19.Kh1 Nxc3 20.Qe1 Nxb5 21.f4 0-0 22.f5 Nd4= 1-0 (32) Maghsoodloo,P (2676)-Dominguez Perez,L (2758) Chess.com INT 2020]

15.Be3

[15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Qxa8 17.Neg5 Nxf3+ 18.Nxf3 c5 19.Qd7 Qe8 20.Qb7 Qb8 21.Qe4 Qa8∓ 0-1 (39) Steinberg,N (2537)-Sarana,A (2643) Chess.com INT 2021]

15...Nf5 16.Qc2 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Qe7 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.exd4 Rad8 20.Rad1 c5 21.axb5 axb5 22.Qd3 cxd4 23.Rf5 g6 24.Rdf1= 1-0 (36) So,W (2770)-Dominguez Perez,L (2758) Lichess.org INT 2020

[70] **14...axb5?** 15.Rxa8 Qxa8 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qg4±

14...Nxf3+ '?!' is dangerous as Black doesn't have time for castling. 15.Qxf3

[15.Nxf3 axb5 16.Rxa8 Qxa8 17.Ng5!

A) The main problem of 14...Nxf3 is that after 17...Nxg5 18.Bxg5 0-0 *(18...h6 19.e6 fxe6 20.Qh5+ Kf8 21.Bf4 Qd5 22.Qe2 Bd6 23.Rd1 Qc4=* ½ (31) Grischuk,A (2775)-Anand,V (2767) Stavanger 2019 *)* 19.Qg4+- Black can't protect both the bishop and the king.;

B) 17...Be7 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Qg4 Kf7

B1) 20.Qf4+ Ke8 21.Rd1 *(21.Be3 Rf8 22.Qg4 Kf7 23.h3 Qd5 24.Qh5+ Kg8 25.Rd1±* 1-0 (56) Bacrot,E (2705)-Fressinet,L (2676) Germany 2009*)* 21...Rf8 22.Qg4 Qa4 23.Qxa4 bxa4 24.Kf1 Bc5 25.f4 g5 26.Ke2 gxf4 27.Kf3= ½ (39) Shankland,S (2714)-Bruzon Batista,L (2645) Saint Louis 2021;

B2) 20.Bg5 Re8 21.Rc1 Bxg5 22.Qxg5 Qd8 23.Qe3 Kg8 24.h3 Qd7 25.Kh2 Rd8 26.Rc5 h6 27.Qg3 c6 28.f3 Qe8 29.f4 ½-½ (29) Duda,J (2731)-Tabatabaei,M (2657) Germany 2022;

C) 17...Qc6 18.Qg4 Qc4 19.Qf5 Nd8 20.Rd1 Qc6 *(20...Be7 21.Be3 Qc6 22.Rxd8+* 1-0 Ganguly,S-Iuldachev,S/Dhaka BAN 2005/ (22) 1-0 Ganguly,S-Iuldachev,S/Dhaka BAN 2005/The Week in Chess 545 (22)*)* 21.Nxh7 *(21.Be3!±* and White wins at least a pawn.*)* 21...Be7 ½ (30) Kramnik,V (2754)-Shirov,A (2713) Monte Carlo 2005 22.Bg5+-]

15...0-0 16.Ne4 axb5 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Qg4 Kh8⇄ Fehling,M-Beikert,G/Germany 1989/GER-chT2

[18...Be7 19.Be3 Qd5 20.Nf6+ Bxf6 21.exf6 g6 22.Rd1 Qb3 23.Rd2 Ra8 24.h3 h5 25.Qe4 Qa4 26.Qe5= 1-0 (34) Khanin,S (2517)-Lysyj,I (2605) Chess.com INT 2021]

15.Qa4!? The queen is very well placed on a4, since it could be easily transferred either to the kingside or to c4.

[15.Qb3

A) 15...Be7? Black can't move the bishop in view of 16.Rxa6!±;

B) 15...Bxd2 16.Rxa6 *(16.Bxd2 0-0 17.Be3 c5 18.Qc4 Qc7 19.Rfc1 Rfc8 20.Qe4 c4 21.Nd2 c3 22.bxc3 Nxc3 23.Qd3 Qxe5 24.Nc4 Nf4 25.Nxe5 Nxd3 26.Nxd3 Ne2+* 1-0 (26) Negi,P (2514)-Becerra Rivero,J (2575) Philadelphia 2008*)* 16...Rxa6 *(16...Rb8 17.Rxe6+ fxe6 18.Qxe6+ Qe7 19.Qc6+ Qd7 20.Qxd7+ Kxd7 21.Bxd2 Ke6 22.Rc1 Rhd8 23.Be3±* 1-0 (47) Sutovsky,E (2607)-Mikhalevski,V (2571) Ashdod 2006*)* 17.Qxb5+ Qd7 18.Qxa6 Bxc1 19.Rxc1 0-0 20.Qb7 Rd8 21.g3 h6 22.Kg2 Qd3 23.Ra1 Rd5 24.Qb4= 1-0 (65) Volokitin,A (2666)-Acs,P (2518) Germany 2006;

C) 15...a5 16.Qc4 Nbd4 Mikhalevski,V: 'Playing this way Black agrees with the fact that he loses a right to castle.' 17.Nxd4 Qxd4 18.Qc6+ Ke7 Mikhalevski,V: 'The only move.' 19.Nf3 Qd7 20.Qc2± h6!?N Nakamura comes with a new idea. He covers the g5-square. Despite having a worse pawn structure and the king on e7 Black's position is rather solid. His strong minor pieces: a nice knight

on a good blockade square e6 and a bishop on b4 supported by the a-pawn allow Black to hope for equalization. *(* The only earlier game saw a quick draw after *20...Rad8 21.Bg5+* White forces an exchange of the strong knight. *Nxg5 22.Nxg5 Qd3!* Sacrificing a pawn for initiative. *23.Qxc7+ Rd7 24.Qc6 Qd5 25.Rac1 h6 26.Nf3=* ½-½ Azarov,S-Mamedyarov,S/Nakhchivan AZE 2003/The Week in Chess 452 (26). and a draw was agreed in view of a clear superiority of the bishop over the knight, which compensates a pawn.*)* 21.Rd1 Qb5 22.Nd4! A correct idea. White has to trade the strong e6-knight. Nxd4

C1) 23.Qxc7+ seems to lead to a beautiful perpetual check. Ke6 24.Rxd4

C1a) 24...Rhc8?! is dangerous in view of 25.Rd6+ Bxd6 26.Qxd6+ Kf5 27.Bxh6!

C1a1) 27...gxh6? loses on the spot: 28.Qf6+ Ke4 29.Re1+ Kd3 30.Qd6+ Kc2 *(30...Kc4 31.Rc1+ Kb3 32.Qa3#)* 31.Qd1+ Kxb2 32.Qb1+ Kc3 33.Qxb5+-;

C1a2) 27...Rc6 28.Qe7! and Black experiences serious problems with the king.;

C1b) 24...Rac8! Black has to keep the other rook on the h-file in order to control the Bxh6-sacrifice. 25.Rd6+! *(25.Qa7)* 25...Bxd6 26.Qxd6+ Kf5 27.h3! Rhd8 28.g4+ Ke4 29.f3+! Kxf3 30.Ra3+ Ke4 *(30...Ke2?? 31.Re3#)* 31.Re3+ Kf4 32.Rc3+! Ke4 33.Re3+= and neither side can avoid repetition of moves.;

C2) 23.Rxd4 Rhd8! I believe this idea was prepared by Nakamura at home. Black sacrifices a pawn. but forces a number of exchanges and in the arisen endgame Black has compensation for a pawn thanks to a strong bishop on b4. 24.Qxc7+ Rd7 25.Rxd7+ Qxd7 26.Qc2! *(*After *26.Qxd7+ Kxd7 27.f4 Rc8 28.Kf2 Rc2+ 29.Kf3 Ke6* activity of the black pieces compensates a pawn. *)* 26...Rd8 27.Be3= ½ (41) Volokitin,A (2671)-Nakamura,H (2660) Biel 2005 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-12.cd4 Ncd4 13.a4 Bb4 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

[15.Ne4

A) 15...Qxd1 16.Rxd1 Ke7 17.Be3 *(17.Kf1 a5 18.Be3 Rhd8 19.Rdc1 Rd5 20.Rc4 c5 21.Ke2 Rad8 22.g3 h6 23.Rac1 g5 24.h3 Nbd4+ 25.Bxd4 Nxd4+ 26.Nxd4 Rxd4 27.Rxd4 Rxd4=* 0-1 (67) Vokhidov,S (2521)-Sarana,A (2649) Chess.com INT 2021*)* 17...Rhd8 18.Rdc1 Rd5 19.g4 a5 20.Kg2 c5 21.Ra4 Nbd4 22.Nc3 Rd7 23.Na2 Nb3 24.Nxb4 cxb4 25.Rc4 Rb8∓ 0-1 (60) Kovalev,V (2648)-Puranik,A (2584) Dhaka 2021;

B) 15...0-0 16.Be3 *(16.Qb3 a5 17.Be3 Nbd4 18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.Qc4 c5 20.Rad1 Qh4 21.f4 Nf5 22.Rd3 Rfd8 23.Nd6 Nxd6 24.exd6 Rd7 25.Bxc5 Rc8 26.Rd5 Bxc5+ 27.Rxc5 Rxc5 28.Qxc5+-* 1-0 (60) Predke,A (2684)-Salimova,N (2387) Chess.com INT 2023*)* 16...Qxd1 17.Rfxd1 White keeps small, but stable advantage thanks to a superior pawn structure. a5 18.Nfg5! Exchanging black's active ♘e6. Nxg5 19.Nxg5 Rfe8 20.f4 f6 21.Nf3 fxe5 22.fxe5! This recapture is better than 22.Nxe5. white covers the d6 square, that

keeps black's knight out of business. c5 23.Rac1 Rac8 24.Kf2 h6 25.Rd7 Nc7! Another example of great defense performed by Vishy Anand. At the price of a pawn, black achieves harmony for his pieces. 26.Bxc5 Ne6 The knight arrived to an ideal place. 27.Be3 Rxc1 28.Bxc1 Rc8 ½ (43) Shirov,A (2725)-Anand,V (2782) Mainz 2004]

[15.Nc4 0-0 16.Be3

A) 16...a5 17.h3 *(17.Qc2 Qd5 18.Rfc1 h6 19.Qf5 Rfd8 20.Qg4 Kh8 21.h3 Qd3 22.Kh1 Kh7 23.Kh2 Qg6=* ½ (38) Fier,A (2549)-Santos Latasa,J (2588) Sitges 2020*)* 17...h6 18.Qe2 c5 19.Rfd1 Nbd4 20.Bxd4 cxd4 21.Qe4 Bc5 22.Ne1 Be7 23.Nd3 Nc5 24.Nxc5 Bxc5 25.Rac1± ½ (66) Santos Latasa,J (2588)-Cheparinov,I (2660) Sitges 2020;

B) 16...c5 17.Qc2 a5 18.Rfd1 Nbd4 19.Qe4 Qc7 20.Nd6 Rad8 21.Bxd4 cxd4 22.Nxd4 Nxd4 23.Qxd4 Rd7 24.Rac1± ½ (71) Swiercz,D (2656)-Hakobyan,A (2601) Saint Louis 2022]

[15.Qc2 0-0 16.Nb3 c5 17.Be3 a5 18.Rfd1 Qe8 19.Nbd2 Bxd2 20.Rxd2 Qc6 21.Nh4 g6 22.Nf3 Rfc8 23.Qc4 a4 24.Rd3 Qb7 25.Rad1 Nbd4 26.Bc1 Rd8∓ ½ (105) Solomon,K (2346)-Jones,G (2666) Montesilvano 2022]

[15.Qe2 Bxd2 16.Bxd2 0-0 17.Be3 Qd5 18.Rfd1 Qe4 19.Qd3 Qxd3 20.Rxd3 c5 21.Nd2 Rfb8 22.Ra4 Nbd4 23.Nc4± ½ (36) Charbonneau,P (2501)-Mikhalevski,V (2571) Montreal 2006]

15...Bxd2 A relatively fresh move, which was introduced by the Cuban GM Bruzon in 2008. The idea is to exchange a potentially active knight, which comes to e4 after 15... ♗e7. Black does not spent a tempo retreating, and at the same time deprives White of the potential attacking knight on e4, but in order to do so, he gives up bishop for knight. The true cost of this is the key question of the variation.

[15...Be7 16.Ne4 *(*There was no point in putting the knight on b3. *16.Nb3 0-0 17.Be3 c5 18.Rfd1 Qb6 19.Qg4 Rfd8∞)* 16...0-0 17.Rd1 *(17.Be3 Qc8 18.Ng3 f5 19.Nh5 Kh8 20.Qc4 c5 21.Nf4 Nxf4 22.Bxf4 Qc6 23.Rfe1 Rad8 24.e6±* 0-1 (60) Huschenbeth,N (2437)-Golod,V (2606) Hamburg 2008 *)* 17...Qc8

A) 18.Be3!? c5 *(18...Re8 19.h4 h6 20.Rac1 Qb7 21.Ng3 Red8 22.Qg4 Kh8 23.Qh5 Kg8 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Bxh6 gxh6 26.Nf5+-* 1-0 (33) Almasi,Z (2667)-Mikhalevski,V (2632) Heviz 2008*)* 19.Rac1 Qc6 20.Nd6 Rfd8 21.Nf5 Bf8 22.Qg4±;

B) 18.Ng3!?;

C) 18.Qc2 Rd8 19.Bg5 Rxd1+ 20.Rxd1 Qe8 21.Bxe7 Qxe7 22.Qc6 Qe8 23.Qxe8+ Rxe8 24.Ra1 Nbd4 25.Nxd4 Nxd4= ½ (33) Palac,M (2582)-Howell,D (2471) Cap d'Agde 2006;

D) 18.Bg5 Nxg5 19.Nexg5

D1) 19...Bxg5 20.Nxg5 Qf5 *(20...h6 21.Ne4 Qe6* ½-½ (21) Galkin,A (2598)-Mikhalevski,V (2572) Port Erin 2005 *)* 21.f4±;

D2) 19...h6!

D2a) 20.Nh3! Qf5 21.Nf4 c6 22.Ne2 Rfb8 *(22...c5 23.Nf4 Rfd8*

24.Nd5 Qe6 25.Qe4±) 23.Qc4± with better chances.;

D2b) 20.Ne4?! The knight has nothing much to do on e4, so more in the spirit of the position was 20...Qe6 21.h3 c5 22.Rac1 Rac8= ½-½ Svidler,P (2735)-Sokolov,I (2685)/Wijk aan Zee 2005/ (43)]

[15...c5

A) 16.Ne4 0-0 17.Rd1 Qc7 *(17...Qb6 18.Be3 ½-½ (18) Bobras,P (2576)-Roussel Roozmon,T (2489) Brno 2008)* 18.Be3 Rfb8 19.Qc2 Rd8 20.Neg5 Nf8 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.Rxa6 Qb7 23.Ra1 Nd4 24.Bxd4 cxd4 25.Qb3± 1-0 (36) Nakamura,H (2736)-Sarana,A (2640) Chess.com INT 2021;

B) 16.Nc4 0-0

B1) 17.Rd1 Nbd4 18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.Be3 a5 20.h3 *(20.Nd6 Qe7 21.Bxd4 cxd4 22.Rxd4 Qxe5 23.Rxb4 axb4 24.Qxa8 Qxd6 25.Qe4 Qd2 26.g3 Qxb2 27.Rb1 Qc3 28.Qxb4 Qxb4 29.Rxb4 g6 30.Kg2 Kg7* ½-½ (30) Santos Latasa,J (2656)-Cuenca Jimenez,J (2558) Sant Ferran de ses Roques 2022*)* 20...Ra6 21.Bxd4 cxd4 22.Nd6 Qg5 23.Rxd4 Qxe5 24.Rxb4 Rxd6 25.Rb5 Qe2= ½ (42) Le,Q (2709)-Vidit,S (2726) chess24.com INT 2020;

B2) 17.Be3 Rb8 *(17...Nbd4 18.Bxd4 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Qxd4 20.Qc2 a5 21.Rad1 Qg4 22.b3 Qg6 23.Qxg6 hxg6 24.Rd3 Rfd8 25.Rfd1 Rxd3 26.Rxd3=* ½ (60) Giri,A (2764)-Le,Q (2728) chess24.com INT 2022 *)* 18.Qd1 Qc8

B2a) 19.Qd5 Rd8 20.Qe4 a5 21.Rfc1 *(21.h4 h6 22.Qg4 Kh8 23.h5 Ned4 24.Qxc8 Rdxc8 25.Kh2±* 1-0 (62) Giri,A (2764)-Le,Q (2728) chess24.com INT 2022*)* 21...Qa6 22.Ng5 Nxg5 23.Bxg5 Rd4 24.Qe2 Qg6 25.Be3 Rd5 26.Qf3 Qe6 27.Nxa5 Bxa5 28.Rxa5= ½ (53) Giri,A (2764)-Le,Q (2728) chess24.com INT 2022;

B2b) 19.Nd6 Nxd6 20.exd6 c4 21.d7 Qb7 22.Qa4 Bc5 23.Ng5 Bxe3 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.fxe3 Rfd8 26.Qxc4 Qxd7 27.Rxa6 Qd5 28.Qxd5 exd5= ½ (92) Giri,A (2764)-Le,Q (2728) chess24.com INT 2022]

16.Bxd2 0-0 17.Rfd1 Earlier White started with 17.♗e3, but it most likely to lead to transposition.

[17.Be3 c5 18.Rac1 *(18.Rfd1 Qe7* transposes to the text.*)* 18...Nbd4! 19.Bxd4 cxd4 20.Rfd1 Qd5 21.Nxd4 Qxe5 22.Nxe6 Qxe6 23.g3 Rab8 24.Rd2= ½-½ Krivoruchko,Y-Bezgodov,A (2502)/Sochi 2008(24).]

17...c5 Black needs to control the d4-square as one of his main ideas is to jump to d4 at the appropriate moment exchanging his weak c-pawn for the e-pawn. 18.Be3 Qb6 A novelty. Black's idea is to take control of his queenside, preparing as soon as possible the exchange of rooks along the d-file, and at the same time, depriving White of the most comfortable arrangement of his pieces, since now he must permnanently concern himself with the defence of the pawn b2.

[In all previous games, Black chose a different square for his queen - 18...Qe7 transposes to the text. Victor Mikhalevsky himself chose this, a year ago playing the following game:

A) 19.Qe4± A new and very logical continuation. White takes control over the light squares and strengthens his e5-pawn. h6!? Black needs some fresh air as after the immediate 19... ♖fe8 the idea of ♘ed4 won't work in view of the back rank problems. 20.h4 Now also White king gets some air. *(*After *20.Qg4 Kh8 21.Qh5 Kg8 22.Ra4* White has not time to bring the rook to the kingside in view of *Rfd8=)* 20...Rfe8!

A1) 21.Rd5 Qb7 looks ok for Black.;

A2) 21.Qg4!?

A2a) 21...Nbd4 is also possible, but I believe White should be better after 22.Bxh6 Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 Qb7 24.Be3 *(24.Rab1!?)* 24...Qxb2 25.f4 Rad8 26.f5±;

A2b) 21...Kh8! 22.Nd2 Ned4 23.Nc4 f5! 24.Qh3 f4! 25.Bxd4 Nxd4∞ with a complicated position.;

A3) 21.Re1 Kh8 *(*Probably more precise would be *21...Red8! 22.Ra4 Rab8! 23.Rxa6 Nbd4 24.Ra2 Nxf3+ 25.Qxf3 Qxh4 26.Ra7 Rf8=)* 22.Ra4! White covers the d4-square, prepares doubling of rooks along the a or c-files and finally gets ready to bring the rook into attack on the kingside. Qd7 *(*Once again *22...Red8!? 23.Rc1 Rab8⇄* deserved attention.*)* 23.Rea1 Nbc7 24.Qf5 *(*After *24.Rc4 Qb5 25.b4 cxb4 26.Rxb4 Qd5 27.Qf5 Qd7±* Black is pretty solid though his position remains passive.*)* 24...Rab8! White also has weaknesses. 25.Qh5= ½-½ (37) Jakovenko,D (2742)-Mikhalevski,V (2625)/Novi Sad 2009/ White is launching a direct attack.;

B) In two previous games White tried two different moves, but in both games Black had no problems in equalising. 19.Qc4 Rfd8 20.h3 h6 21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Rxa6 Nbd4 23.Bxd4 Nxd4 24.Nxd4 cxd4 25.Rd6 Rxd6 26.exd6 Qxd6 27.Qc8+ Kh7 28.Qf5+ ½-½ Quezada Perez,Y (2546)-Bruzon Bautista,L (2607)/ Aguascalientes 2008 (28).;

C) 19.Rac1 h6 20.Rd2 Nbd4 21.Bxd4 cxd4 22.h3 Ng5 23.Nxg5 Qxg5 24.Qa5 Rab8 25.Rc5 Rb5 26.Rxb5 axb5 27.Qb4 Qxe5 28.Qxd4 Re8 29.Qxe5 ½-½ Kryvoruchko,Y (2628)-Holzke,F (2516)/Paleochora 2008 (29).;

D) 19.h4 Rfe8 20.h5 h6 21.Qg4 Kh8 22.Nd2 Ned4 23.Nc4 f6 24.Nd6 Nxd6 25.exd6 Qxd6 26.Bxd4 cxd4 27.Rxd4 Qe6 28.Qxe6 Rxe6 29.b4 Rb8 30.Ra5 Reb6 31.f3 Rxb4 ½-½ (31) Ter Sahakyan,S (2615)-Abasov,N (2634) Terme Catez 2021]

19.Rac1

[19.h4

A) 19...Nbc7

A1) 20.h5 Qxb2 21.h6 *(21.Rab1 Qc3 22.h6 Rfb8 23.hxg7 Rxb1 24.Rxb1 Rd8∞)* 21...Rfd8 22.Rdb1 Qe2 23.hxg7 Nd5 24.Re1 Qb5 25.Qe4 Qb4 26.Qf5 Nxe3 27.Rxe3 Qf4 28.Qc2 a5⇄;

A2) 20.Rd2 Rad8 21.Rad1 Rxd2 22.Rxd2 h6 23.h5 Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Nxd8 25.b3 Nde6 26.Qc4 Qb5=;

A3) 20.Qc2 Rfd8 21.Ng5 *(21.h5 Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Rb8 23.Rd2 h6*

24.Nh4 Nd4 25.Bxd4 cxd4 26.Nf5 Ne6=) 21...Nxg5 22.Bxc5 Nf3+! 23.gxf3 Qc6⩲;

B) 19...h5 20.Qe4 Nbd4 21.Bxd4 cxd4 22.Nxd4 Qb4 23.Qe3 Nxd4 24.Qxd4 Rab8 25.Rxa6 Qxd4 26.Rxd4 Rxb2 27.Ra7± ½ (59) Hovhannisyan, R (2591)-Jones,G (2652) Chennai 2022]

[19.h3 A useful waiting move. Nbc7 Attacking b2 and indirectly preparing the move ♖d8. *(*The immediate *19...Rfd8 20.Rxd8+ Rxd8 21.Qxa6* loses a pawn.*)* 20.Rd2 It is impossible to avoid the exchange of one pair of rooks, but in return, White manages for some time to dominate the d-file. *(* Nothing is achieved by the impatient *20.Nh4 Qxb2 21.f4 Rfd8∓;* or the retreat *20.Qc2 Rfd8 21.Nd2 Nd4 22.Bxd4 cxd4 23.Nc4 Qc5=)* 20...Rad8 21.Rad1 Rxd2 22.Rxd2

A) Not 22...Rd8 23.Rxd8+ Nxd8 24.Qd7±;

B) After the immediate 22...h6 the standard

B1) If 23.Qg4 there is the strong Rd8 24.Bxh6 Rxd2 25.Nxd2 Qxb2 and White is not sufficiently active, eg. 26.Nc4 Qa1+ 27.Kh2 a5 28.f4 Qd4 29.Nd6 a4 30.Qf5 *(30.Nf5? Qe4! 31.Nxg7 Qg6-+)* 30...gxh6 31.Qxf7+ Kh8 32.Qf6+ Ng7 33.f5 Qf4+ 34.Kh1 a3 35.Nf7+ Kg8 36.Nxh6+ Kh8=;

B2) 23.Nh4 is promising.

B2a) or 23...Qb4 24.Qxb4 cxb4 25.Nf5 Rd8 26.Nd6 Ne8 *(26...Nb5 27.Nxb5 axb5 28.Rxd8+ Nxd8 29.f4±)* 27.Bb6 Rb8 *(27...Rd7 28.Ba5±)* 28.Nc4 N8c7 29.f4 with an unpleasant initiative, even in the endgame;

B2b) in order after 23...Rd8 to play 24.Rxd8+ Nxd8 25.Nf5 creating unpleasant threats against the black king, even though little material remains.

B2b1) 25...Qxb2 26.Qd7 Qb8 *(26...Nde6 27.Qc8+ Kh7 28.Ne7+-)* 27.Ne7+ Kh8 28.f4! c4 29.Kh2 Nde6 30.f5→;

B2b2) 25...Nde6 26.Qd7 Qb5 27.Qc8+ Kh7 *(27...Qe8 28.Qb7 Qb5 29.Nd6 Qxb7 30.Nxb7±)* 28.Ne7 Qe8 29.Qxe8 Nxe8 30.f4⩲;

C) White is also better after 22...Qb4 23.Qxb4 *(23.Qc2 Nb5)* 23...cxb4 24.Bb6 eg. Rb8 *(24...Nb5 25.Rc2 h6 26.Rc4 Rb8 27.Ba5 b3 28.Kf1±)* 25.Rd6 Nb5 26.Rc6 Nf4 27.Be3 Nd3 28.b3⩲;

D) 22...Qb5

D1) After the tempting 23.Qe4 there follows the preliminary h6 *(* but not *23...Rd8? 24.Ng5↑)* and if White carries out the same idea as in the game 24.Nh4 then there is nothing wrong with the move *(*and after *24.Qg4* the same defence is possible *Rd8! 25.Rxd8+ Nxd8* and after *26.Bxh6* simply *Nde6* and White cannot hold his extra pawns without undue consequences: *27.Bc1 Qe2! 28.Bd2 Qd1+ 29.Kh2 Qc2 30.Bc3 Nd5 31.Qc4 Nxc3 32.bxc3 a5⩱)* 24...Rd8 with simplifications.;

D2) 23.Qc2 Taking the c-pawn under control.

D2a) It is not so easy for Black to manage without this kingside pawn advance. For example, after 23...Rb8 there follows the same idea as in the

game: 24.Nh4 g6 *(A tactical nuance prevents Black going after the e5 pawn here: 24...c4 25.Nf5* and now *Qxe5* loses to *26.Ne7+ Kh8 27.Nc6+-)*

D2a1) Unfortunately, 25.f4 fails because of Qb3 26.Qe4 Rb4 27.Qf3 Nd4 with mass exchanges. 28.Bxd4 cxd4 29.Qxb3 Rxb3 30.Rxd4 Ne6! *(30...Rxb2? 31.Rd8+ Kg7 32.f5↑)* 31.Ra4 Rxb2 32.f5 Nc5 33.Rc4 Rb5 34.f6 h6 35.Nf3 Ne6=;

D2a2) 25.Nf3! Seemingly losing a tempo, but in fact, forcing a weakening of the black kingside. and now after 25...c4 there is the interesting 26.Bh6 and then, for example a5 27.Nh2 Nd5 *(ili 27...Qxe5 28.Ng4 Qe1+ 29.Kh2→)* 28.Ng4 Nb4 29.Qe4 Nd3 30.Qf3 Qb7 *(30...Nxe5 31.Nf6+ Kh8 32.Qc3+-)* 31.Qf6↑;

D2b) Nor is it possible to exchange rooks by 23...Rd8 because there follows 24.Rxd8+ Nxd8 25.Qxc5**±**;

D2c) After the attempt to break out by 23...c4 and on 24.Qe4 then Rb8 *(*after *24...Rd8 25.Rc2 Nd5 26.Qxc4 Qxc4 27.Rxc4 Nxe3 28.fxe3±* White has an extra pawn*)* correct is 25.Rc2 *(*since after *25.Nh4 g6 26.Nf3* Black is able tio simplify the position by *Qb3 27.Bh6 c3 28.bxc3 Qxc3 29.Qh4 Qb4 ⩲30.Qf6 Ne8)*

D2c1) on 25...c3 26.bxc3 Qb1+ 27.Kh2 Rb2 there is 28.Ne1 a5 29.Bc1 Rxc2 30.Qxc2 Qxc2 31.Nxc2 Nd5 32.Bd2 Nb6 33.Na3 with an extra pawn.;

D2c2) whilst after 25...Qd5 26.Nd2 Qxe4 27.Nxe4 Rb5 28.Rxc4 Rxb2 *(⩲28...Rxe5 29.f4 Rb5 30.f5 Rxf5 31.Bb6+-)* 29.f4 g6 30.Nf6+ Kg7 31.g4 ,despite the small amount of material remaining, White can create very unpleasant threats against the black king.;

D2c3) 25...Nd5 26.Bd2! *(26.Qxc4 Qxc4 27.Rxc4 Nxe3 28.fxe3 Rxb2 29.Rc8+ Nf8 30.Ng5 Rb6=)* 26...Rc8 27.Nd4 Nxd4 28.Qxd4**±** with somewhat the better chances, thanks to the superiority of the bishop over the knight.;

D2d) 23...h6 24.Nh4 It was essential to play c4! centralising and including the queen in the defence. And after *(24...Qb4?* Strangely, this is possibly the first, yet decisive mistake. Black should not in any circumstances have allowed the white knight into f5 without a fight, since from there it hangs dangerously over his king *25.Nf5±* 1-0 (53) Kosintseva, N (2551)-Mikhalevski,V (2610) Biel 2010 *)*

D2d1) If White continues to defend the pawn by 25.Qe4 ,then Black succeeds in the vital task of removing the rooks from the board by means of Rd8! having in mind after

D2d11) after 26.Rxd8+ Nxd8

D2d111) or 27.Nf5 Qxb2 28.Qxc4 Qa1+! *(28...Qxe5? 29.Nxg7!)*;

D2d112) 27.f4 White's attacking resources do not appear sufficient,

eg 27...Nd5 28.Nf5 *(28.Bd4 Ne6)* 28...Nxe3 29.Nxe3 Qxb2 30.Nxc4 Qb4 31.Kh2 a5 32.f5 a4 33.Qd5 Qe7=;

D2d12) 26.Rc2 the fact that he has available the very interesting pawn sacrifice 26...c3! 27.bxc3 Rd1+ 28.Kh2 Nd5 29.Nf5 *(⩲29.c4 Nxe3!)* 29...Qb1 and already it is White's pieces which feel uncomfortably placed.;

D2d2) 25.Nf5 Qxe5 26.Ne7+ Kh8 27.Qxc4 ,it seemed to me during the game that although White should be a little better, because of the superiority of the bishop over the knight, it is far from clear whether this will be of real significance, since Black's position has no weaknesses, his knights have good outposts in the centre and most importantly of all, now there are no threats against the black king. Play could continue Qf6 *(27...Nb5 28.Qc6±)* 28.Nc6 Rc8 29.Qa4±]

[The direct 19.Rd2 fails to Rfd8 20.Rad1 *(*ili *20.b4 Rxd2 21.Nxd2 Nc3 22.bxc5 Qxc5 23.Bxc5 Nxa4=; 20.Rxd8+ Rxd8 21.b4 Nbc7 22.bxc5 Nxc5 23.Qc2 Qb3!)* 20...Rxd2 21.Rxd2 Rd8 and in view of the lack of a bolthole for his king, White cannot avoid mass exchanges.]

19...a5

[19...Nbc7 20.Qc2 immediately going after the c5-pawn *(20.Nd2 Qxb2 21.Nc4 Qb4 22.Qc2 Nb5 23.Bd2 Nbd4 24.Bxb4 Nxc2 25.Bxc5 Nxc5 26.Rxc2 a5 27.Nb6 Rad8=; 20.h3 Qxb2 21.Bxc5 Nxc5 22.Rxc5 Ne6 23.Ra5 Qb6=)* but after 20...Rad8 , it turns out that the white pawn on b2 is an object of attack in its turn.

A) 21.Nd2 Nd5 22.Bxc5 *(22.Nc4 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Qb4)* 22...Nxc5 23.Qxc5 Qxc5 24.Rxc5 Nb4⩱;

B) 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.h3 *(22.Ne1 Nb5 23.Bxc5 Qc7)* 22...Rb8 23.Bxc5 Qxb2 24.Qxb2 Rxb2 25.Bd6 Rb7 26.Nd2 f6 27.Nc4 Nb5 Black should hold.]

[But not 19...Rad8? 20.Rxd8 Rxd8 21.b4±]

20.Qc4 Rac8 21.Ng5 Nxg5 22.Bxg5± 1-0 (44) Nakamura,H (2736)-Mamedyarov,S (2770) chess24.com INT 2021 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-13.a4 Bb4 14.Qa4 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[71] **11...Bd5!?** but requires a strong nerves from black, since after 12.Nxf7! Black has at least a draw after this sacrifice.

[Lately the line 12.Bxd5 Qxd5 13.Nb3 Nxb3 *(13...d3* Dorfman *14.Nd4 Nxe5 15.Re1 Be7 16.Nf5↑; 13...Rd8* Dorfman *14.Nxc5 Bxc5 15.e6 fxe6 16.Nxe6 Qxe6 17.Re1 Ne5 18.Qh5++- +-)* 14.axb3 Be7 15.Nf3

A) In the origin game Black played worse and White obtained better play. 15...Nxe5 16.Nxd4 Ng6 17.Qf3 Qxf3 18.Nxf3 c5 19.Rd1⩱ 0-0 20.Be3 Rfc8 *(20...Rfd8* Dorfman *21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Kf1 Ra8 23.Rd1± ±)* 21.Kf1 Nf8 *(21...Kf8?!* Dorfman *22.Rd7 Ke8 23.Rb7±* ΔRb6 *)* 22.Ne5 Bf6 23.Rd5 Bxe5 24.Rxe5± 0-1 (53) Anand,V (2720)-Sokolov,I (2625) Lyon 1994;

B) 15...d3!∞ '!' ~ was discussed. 16.Be3 *(16.Nd4∞ ~; 16.Bg5 Bxg5 17.Nxg5 0-0= =)* 16...0-0 17.Bd4 'N' *(17.b4 Rfd8 18.Re1 a5 19.bxa5 Rxa5 20.Rxa5 Nxa5 21.Nd4 Nc4 22.b3 Nxe5∓* 0-1 McDonald,N-Gyimesi,Z/Budapest 1995/ (32) *)* 17...Rfd8 18.Qxd3 White has nothing from the opening. *(18.b4 Bxb4 19.Qxd3 Be7∓)* 18...Qxb3 19.Qe2 Qe6 20.Rfd1 Rd5 21.h3 a5∓ ½-½ Onischuk,A (2580)-Sokolov,I (2615)/Wijk aan Zee 1997/ (62)]

[12.Re1 1-0 Szelag,M-Jedryczka,K/Augustow 1996/EXT 99 (42)]

12...Kxf7 13.Qf3+ Postny: 'white has a dangerous attack.' 13...Ke6 14.Qg4+!

[14.Ne4 was played and analysed by Cuban players.In according to Wedberg Black forces a draw after Nxb3 *(14...Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Ne7∞)* 15.Qg4+ Kf7 16.Qf5+

A) 16...Ke8 '?' '?' Wedberg. 17.e6 Bxe6 *(17...Ne5 18.axb3±; 17...Qc8 18.Qxd5 Nba5 19.b4 Ne7 20.Qh5+±)* 18.Qxe6+ Ne7 19.Qxb3 Qd5 20.Qxd5 Nxd5 21.cxd4± ½-½ Dominguez,L-Rios,E/Cienfuegos 1996/ (49);

B) 16...Kg8! 17.e6 h6 Forcing the draw. *(17...Qe7? 18.Qxd5 Nxa1 19.Bg5 Rd8 20.Qxc6 Qe8 21.Qxc7 Rc8 22.Qe5±)* 18.Qf7+ *(18.axb3 Rh7∓)* 18...Kh7 19.Ng5+ hxg5 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Qf7+=]

14...Ke7□

[14...Kf7? 15.Qf5+ Ke7 *(15...Kg8 16.e6+-; 15...Ke8 16.e6 Bxe6 17.Bxe6 Qf6 18.Qxf6 gxf6 19.Bd5 Kd7 20.cxd4+-)* 16.e6

A) 16...Nxe6 17.Bxd5+-;

B) 16...Bxe6

B1) 17.Qxc5+ Qd6□ 18.Qg5+ Kd7± *(18...Kf7 19.Qf5+ Ke7 20.Re1)*;

B2) 17.Re1! Qd6 18.Bxe6 Nxe6

B2a) 19.Ne4!? Qe5 20.Bg5+ Kd7 *(20...Nxg5 21.Nxg5+-; 20...Ke8 21.Nf6++-)* 21.Nc5+! Bxc5 *(21...Qxc5 22.Qxe6#)* 22.Rxe5 *(22.Qf7+ Kd6 23.Be7+ Kd5+-* 1-0 (23) Polgar,J (2685)-Mamedyarov,S (2580) Bled 2002 *)* 22...Nxe5 23.Qxe5+-;

B2b) 19.Nb3! Ncd8 20.Bg5+ Kd7 21.Bxd8 Kxd8 *(21...Rxd8 22.Nc5+! Kc8 23.Rxe6 Qxc5 24.Re5++-)* 22.Rxe6 Qd7 23.Nxd4+-;

C) 16...Nxb3 17.Nxb3 Bxe6 18.Re1 *(18.Bg5+? Kd7)* 18...Qc8 19.Nxd4 *(19.cxd4!?)* 19...Nxd4 20.cxd4+-]

15.e6! Bxe6

[15...Nxb3 doesn't save 16.Nxb3 Bxe6 17.Re1 Qd5 *(17...Qd6? 18.Nc5 Nd8 19.Bg5+ Kf7 20.Qf3+)* 18.Nc5 Nd8 19.cxd4!

A) 19...g6? 20.Nxe6 Nxe6 21.Re5 Qd6 22.Bg5+ Kd7 *(22...Kf7 23.Qf3+)* 23.Rae1 Re8 24.d5+-;

B) 19...Kf7? 20.Nxe6 Nxe6 21.Re5 Qd6 22.Qf3++-;

C) 19...h6□ 20.Bf4! Kf7 21.Nxe6 Nxe6 22.Re5 Qd7 23.Qf5++-]

16.Re1 Qd7

[16...Qd6 allow White to bring knight into play with tempo. 17.Bxe6 Nxe6 18.Ne4 Qe5

A) 19.Bg5+ Kd7 20.Nc5+ Bxc5 *(20...Qxc5 21.Qxe6#)* 21.Rxe5 Nxe5;

B) 19.Bd2! h5 *(19...Qd5 20.Ng5 Ncd8 21.Nxe6 Nxe6 22.Rxe6+ Qxe6 23.Re1 Qxe1+ 24.Bxe1±)* 20.Qh4+ *(20.Qg6!?)* 20...Kd7 21.Ng5 Qf5 22.Nxe6 Qg4 23.Qxg4 hxg4 24.cxd4±]

17.Bxe6

[Unfortunately 17.Ne4? doesn't work because of Nxb3 *(*In case of *17...Bxg4??* White beautifully mates *18.Bg5+ Ke8 19.Nd6#)*]

17...Nxe6 18.Nf3

[18.Nb3]

18...Re8

[18...Kf7? 19.Rxe6 *(19.Ng5+!?)*]

19.Ng5 Ncd8□ 20.Bd2! h6?!

[It was interesting to seek a refuge on the queenside.Here is examplary variation: 20...Kd6!? 21.cxd4 Kc6 22.Qe4+ Kb6 23.d5 Bc5! *(23...Nxg5 24.Qxe8 Qxe8 25.Rxe8* with an advantage for White.*)* 24.Nxe6 *(24.b4 Nxg5 25.bxc5+ Ka7∞)* 24...Nxe6 25.b4 Bxf2+ 26.Kxf2 Nd8 and Black is still alive.]

21.Nf3!± White's attack on its final stages.

[After 21.Nxe6 Nxe6 22.Rxe6+ Qxe6 23.Re1 Qxe1+ 24.Bxe1± White is better, but Svidler already goes for more.]

21...Qd5 22.Re5 Qd6 23.cxd4 h5

[23...c6 24.d5 △cxd5 25.Bb4+-]

24.Qe4 ½ (69) Svidler,P (2713)-Anand,V (2781) Dos Hermanas 1999 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 d4 11.Ng5 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[72] **14.Nf3** and now Anand played 14...0-0-0! This was Elizbar's idea. I was first sceptical, but later became very enthusiastic about this move. To compensate for the obvious shortcomings in his position (weak king, White's two bishops) Black has a lead in development and White's pieces do not coordinate very easily. against Kasparov and equalized in their match in New York,1995 This game is annotated by Anand in CBM 49.

[14...Qxd1 15.Bxd1 Be7 16.Be3 Nd3 17.Bb3 Kf7 18.Rad1 Ndxe5 19.Nxe5+ Nxe5 20.Bf4 Nc4 21.Bxc4 bxc4 22.Rd4 Bd6 23.Be3 Rhb8 24.Rxc4 Rb2= ½ (44) Karpov,A (2725)-Kortschnoj,V (2665) Baguio City 1978]

15.Qe1

[15.Bd2 Nxb3 16.axb3 *(16.Qxb3 Rd5!)* 16...Kb7 Δ ♗e7,♖hf8]

15...Nxb3 16.axb3 Kb7 17.Be3 Played by Kasparov after 20 minutes thought. Another possiblity was 17.Bg5 . After 17...Rd5 White could choose between the speculative 18.c4!? and the strange-looking 18.b4.The latter seeks to deny Black's Bishop c5.One possible variation is 18.b4 h6 19.Be3 g5 20.Ra2 with Rd2 and Qa1 in the works.

[17.Bg5 Rd7]

17...Be7 18.Bg5 An interesting idea. White wants to gain access to the c5 square which means he must eliminate Black's dark coloured bishop. Once again the weird-looking 18.b4 is deserving consideration.

[18.Ra2 Δ ♕a1 Rhf8! 19.Qa1 Rxf3! 20.gxf3 Qg6+ 21.Kh1 Qh5 And Black can count on at least a draw.]

18...h6 During the post-game press conference Anand mentioned that 18...Rhe8 would have left White with a slight advantage.

[18...Rhe8!? This may well be the best move since the game continuation is quite risky for Black. I don't see anything clear for White here. 19.Bxe7 Rxe7 20.Ng5 I was worried about this during the game, but afterwards my seconds showed me ♕d2. Qd2! 21.Ne4 *(21.Qe4 Qxg5 22.Rxa6 Rd5 23.Rxc6 Kxc6 24.c4 Qxe5 25.cxd5+ Qxd5∓)* 21...Qxe1 22.Rfxe1 Kb6]

19.Bxe7 Nxe7 20.Nd4!? Rxd4! The only move. Anything else allows b4 and ♘b3-c5. Anand had forseen this possiblity many moves before. The only move. Anything else allows b4 and ♘b3-c5. Anand had forseen this possiblity many moves before.

[20...Qg6 21.b4 Nd5 22.Nb3! Nf4 23.Nc5+ Kc8 24.g3 Nd3 25.Qe3+-]

21.cxd4 Qxb3

[21...Qxd4 This is a serious alternative. I wanted to have connected passed pawns in the ⟪, but Black has good compensation here as well.]

22.Qe3?! Benjamin: A critical decision and one that Garry spent twenty five minutes on. The GM commenting corp spent a lot of time on 22.Qc1, staying in the middlegame. One possible line is 22...Ra8 (Black has to worry about Rxa6 followed by Qxc7) 23. Ra3 Qb4 24.Rc3 Nd5 25.Rc6 Qxd4 26.Rxe6 Nc3 27.Kh1 a5 and Black is doing fine.

[22.Qc1 Much more dangerous than the game continuation.

A) 22...Nd5? 23.Rxa6 Nc3 24.Qa1 Na4 25.Rb1 Qxb1+ 26.Qxb1 Kxa6 27.Qg6+-;

B) 22...Qd5?? 23.Qa3 I actually wasted a few seconds before I saw this.;

C) 22...Ra8 23.Qf4! *(23.Qc5 Nc6 24.Rfc1 Qd5!)* 23...Qd5 *(23...Nd5 24.Qf7 Nc3? 25.Qf3+!)* 24.Qf7 Nc6 25.Rac1 Rd8! *(25...Rc8 26.Rc5 Qxd4 27.Rfc1 Δ ♕f3)* 26.Rc5 Qxd4 27.Rxc6! Kxc6 28.Rc1+ Kb7 29.Qxc7+ Ka8 30.h3;

D) 22...Qb4!? This is probably the best defence. The point is that after 23.♕f4 ♘d5 24.♕f7 Black can play 24... ♕e7. 23.Qc2 *(23.Rxa6? Kxa6 24.Qxc7 Qa3! 25.Qd7 Rc8 26.Qxe6+ Rc6 27.Qf7 Rc1!)* 23...Qxd4 24.Qa2 Qb6]

22...Qxe3□

[22...Qd5?? 23.Qa3+- I actually wasted a few seconds before I saw this.]

23.fxe3 I didn't know what to make of this ending during the game, but now it seems to me that Black is not in danger here. 23...Nd5 ½ (28) Kasparov,G (2795)-Anand,V (2725) New York 1995

14.Qf3 Qxf3 15.Nxf3 Nxb3 16.axb3 Be7 17.Rd1 Kf7 18.Kf1 a5 19.Rd7 Rhc8 20.Ke2 Ke8 21.Rd2 Rd8 22.Rda2 Ra6= ½ (54) El Taher,F (2493)-Mamedyarov,S (2607) Dubai 2003

[73] **15.Nb3!!** Once again Garry played this move instantly. 15...Nxb3 Played after a

45 minute thought.
[15...Rd8!? 16.Bd2
A) 16...Qxe5!?
A1) 17.Re1 Qd5
A1a) 18.Qg4 Wedberg Ne5 *(18...e5 19.Bg5 Rd7 20.Nxc5 Bxc5 21.Be4±; 18...Nd4 19.Nxc5 Bxc5 20.Qxg7 Rf8 21.Bxh7 Rd7 22.Qg6+ Kd8 23.Bh6 Nf3+ 24.gxf3 Qxf3 25.Qg5+ Kc8 26.Qxc5 Qg4+ 27.Kh1 Qf3+ 28.Kg1 Qg4+ ½-½ (28) Naiditsch,A (2611)-Mamedyarov,S (2660) Pamplona 2004)* 19.Rxe5 Qxe5 20.Re1 Qd5 21.Nxc5 Bxc5 22.Rxe6+ Kf7 23.Bb3 +-;
A1b) 18.Bf4 Nb4;
A2) 17.Qg4 Bd6 *(17...Nxb3 18.Rae1 Nxd2 19.Rxe5 Nxe5 20.Qxe6+ Be7 21.Qxe5)* 18.f4 Qf6;
B) 16...Qc4 17.Qh5+ Kd7 18.Rac1→;
C) 16...Rxd2 17.Nxd2± Nxe5?! *(17...Qxe5 18.Re1 Qf6 19.Nb3±)* 18.Nb3 Ned7 *(18...Ncd3 19.Bxd3 Nxd3 20.Qf3±; 18...Bd6 19.Rc1 Ncd3 20.Bxd3 Qxd3 21.Nc5±)* 19.Nd4! Bd6 20.Rc1 Qb2 *(20...Qa3 21.Qh5+ Kf8 22.Bb3±)* 21.Bb3 Nxb3 *(21...0-0 22.Rc2 Qa3 23.Nxe6 Nxb3 24.Nxf8+-)* 22.axb3 Black has too many weaknesses: a6,c7 and e6 pawns. 0-0 *(22...c5? 23.Re1+-; 22...e5 Wedberg 23.Ne6±)* 23.Rc2 Qa3 24.Nxe6 Qxb3 *(24...Rf7 25.Nxc7 Qxb3 26.Nxa6+-)* 25.Nxf8 Nxf8 *(25...Kxf8?! 26.Rxc7!+-)* 26.Qb1 Qxb1 *(26...Qe6 27.Qa2+-; 26...Qf7 Wedberg 27.Qa2 Ne6 28.Re1 +-)* 27.Rxb1+- 1-0 Khalifman,A (2650)-Hracek,Z (2650)/Parnu 1996/ (30)]
16.Bxb3 Nd4
[16...Qxa1
A) 17.Qf3 Nd8
A1) 18.Bf4 Qd4 19.Rd1 Qa7 20.Bxe6 Nxe6 21.Qc6+ Kf7 22.Rd7+ Be7 23.Be3 Qb8 24.Qf3+= '=' Kg8 *(24...Ke8 25.Qc6 Kf7 26.Qf3+=)* 25.Rxe7 *(25.Qd5 Qe8 26.Qxe6+ Kf8-+)* 25...Qf8 26.Rxe6 Qxf3 27.gxf3 Kf7∓;
A2) 18.Qxa8 Qxe5 19.Qxa6 Bd6 20.f4 Qc5+ 21.Kh1 0-0∞;
B) 17.Qh5+
B1) 17...Kd7 18.Bxe6+ Kxe6 19.Qg4+ Kf7 *(19...Kd5 20.Qd7+ Bd6 21.Qf7+ Kxe5 22.Qxg7+ Ke6 23.Qxa1+-)* 20.Qf3+ Ke6 *(20...Kg8 21.Qd5#)* 21.Qxc6+ Bd6 22.exd6 Qe5 23.Bd2+-;
B2) 17...g6 18.Qf3
B2a) 18...0-0-0 19.Qxc6 Qxe5 20.Qxa6+ Kb8 *(20...Kd7 21.Bb2!+-)* 21.Be3+-;
B2b) 18...Nd8
B2b1) 19.Bf4 Qd4 20.Rd1 Qa7 21.Rxd8+ Kxd8 22.Bg5+ Be7 23.Bxe7+ Kxe7 24.Qf6+ Kd7 25.Qxe6+ Kd8 26.Qf6+ Kd7 '=' Ftacnik. 27.Qe6+ Kd8 28.Qf6+ Kd7=;
B2b2) 19.Qf6 Rg8
B2b21) 20.Bg5 Qc3 *(20...Qxf1+ 21.Kxf1 Ba3 22.Qf3±)* 21.Rd1

(21.Bxe6 Rg7 22.Rd1 Re7!-+) 21...Bd6!;
B2b22) 20.Bxe6 Rg7 *(20...Be7 21.Bd7+! Kxd7 22.e6+ Nxe6 23.Qxa1±; 20...Nxe6 21.Qxe6+ Be7 22.Qxg8++-)* 21.Ba3 Qxf1+ 22.Kxf1 Bxa3 23.Qxg7 Nxe6 24.Qxh7 *(24.Qg8+ Nf8 25.e6 Be7∓)* 24...Rd8 25.Qxg6+ Ke7∞;
B2b3) 19.Qxa8 Qxe5;
B2b4) 19.Rd1
B2b41) 19...Qxe5 20.Bf4 Qf6 21.Qxa8 Bc5 *(21...Be7 22.Bxc7±)* 22.Rxd8+ Ke7 *(22...Qxd8 23.Qc6+ Qd7 24.Qxc5+-)* 23.Qc6 Bxf2+ 24.Kf1 *(24.Kxf2 Qxf4+-+)* 24...Rxd8 25.Bg5 Rd1+ *(25...Qxg5 26.Qxe6+ Kf8 27.Qf7#)* 26.Bxd1 Qxg5 27.Qxc7+ Ke8 28.Kxf2+-;
B2b42) 19...Rb8!?
B2b421) 20.Qf6 Rg8 21.Bg5 *(21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Qxe6+ Be7 23.Qxg8+ Kd7 24.Qe6+ Ke8 25.Qf7+=)* 21...Qxd1+ 22.Bxd1 h6 23.Be3 Be7∞;
B2b422) 20.Qd3!
B2b4221) 20...Bd6 21.exd6 Qg7 22.Bb2 e5 *(22...Qxb2 23.dxc7+-)* 23.d7++-;
B2b4222) 20...Be7 21.Qd7+ Kf7 22.Bg5 Qxd1+ 23.Bxd1 Re8 24.Qxc7 *(24.Bg4 h5 25.Bh3→)* 24...Rb7 25.Qc1±]

17.Qg4 '!' 17...Qxa1
[17...Nxb3 18.Qxe6+ Be7 19.Bg5+-]
18.Bxe6 Garry was still moving more or less instantly and was over an hour ahead on the clock. 18...Rd8 This move was played quite quickly by Anand. Black can try other moves, but they also seem to lose.
[18...Nxe6 19.Qxe6+ Be7 20.Bg5+-]
[18...Qc3 19.Bd7+ Kf7 *(19...Kd8 20.Bg5+ Be7 21.Bxe7+ Kxe7 22.Qxg7++-)* 20.Be3 Bc5 *(20...c5? 21.Bxd4 Qc4 22.e6+ Kg8 23.e7+-)* 21.Rd1 Ne2+
A) 22.Qxe2 Bxe3 *(22...Qxe5 23.Qf3+ Ke7 24.Bxc5+ Qxc5 25.Bh3→)* 23.e6+ Ke7 24.fxe3→;
B) 22.Kh1! Bxe3 23.Qe6+ Kf8 24.Qf5+ Ke7 25.Be6+-]
19.Bh6 Qc3 According to Garry, Vishy found the only way to survive for awhile. Here 19...Qxf1+ 20.Kxf1 gxh6 21.Qh5+ mates.
[19...Qxf1+ 20.Kxf1 gxh6 21.Qh5++-]
20.Bxg7 Qd3
[20...Bxg7 21.Qh5+!+-]
21.Bxh8 Qg6
[21...Ne2+ 22.Kh1 Ng3+ 23.hxg3 Qxf1+ 24.Kh2 Qd3 25.Bf5! Qc4 *(25...Qd1 26.f3+-)* 26.f4 Qxa2 27.Bxh7+-]
22.Bf6 Be7 23.Bxe7 Qxg4 Necessary as 23...Kxe7 would allow 24.Qh4+.
[23...Kxe7 24.Qh4+ Ke8 25.Bg4+-]
24.Bxg4+- 1-0 (38) Kasparov,G (2795)-Anand,V (2725) New York 1995

[74] **12...Kd7** 13.Bd5↑ Bxd5 14.Qxd5+ Bd6 15.Nc4 Qg6 16.exd6 bxc4 17.Qxc5 cxd6 18.Qxc4 Qe6 19.Qa4 Rhe8 20.cxd4 Qd5 21.Be3 f5 22.Rfc1± 1-0 (41) Nayhebaver,M (2485)-Brunello,S (2519) Tornelo INT 2021

12...0-0-0!? 13.Bxe6+

[13.Qxc6?! Qxe5 14.Bxe6+ Qxe6∓]

13...fxe6 14.Qxc6 Qxe5! 15.b4

[15.Nf3 Wedberg Qd5 16.Nxd4 *(16.Qxd5 Rxd5 17.cxd4 Nd3 18.Rd1 Nb4 19.Be3 Bd6 20.a3 Nc6 21.Rac1 Na5 22.Nd2 Kb7 23.g4 Re8 24.Rc2 Nc6 25.Ne4 e5=* 0-1 (57) Bluvshtein,M (2462)-Mikhalevski,V (2551) Kapuskasing 2004 *)* 16...e5 17.Qxd5 Rxd5 18.Nb3 Nd3 =Wolff,P-Mephisto/Harvard/1992]

[15.cxd4 Qxd4 16.b4 Qxb4 17.a4 Bd6 18.Ba3 Qxd2 19.Bxc5 Qd5 20.Qxa6+ Qb7 21.Qxb7+ Kxb7 22.Bxd6 Rxd6 23.Rab1 Rd5 24.Rfe1= ½ (50) Ehlvest,J (2602)-Korneev,O (2566) Reykjavik 2004]

[15.a4 dxc3 16.Nf3 Qd5 17.axb5 Rd6 18.Qe8+ Rd8 19.Qc6 Rd6 20.Qe8+ Rd8 21.Qf7 Nb3 22.Rxa6 Nxc1 23.Rxc1 Bc5 24.Re1 cxb2 25.h3 Rhf8-+ 0-1 (30) Iordachescu,V (2603)-Golod,V (2576) Port Erin 2006]

15...Qd5 Black forces the exchange of queens, going to an endgame with a piece down, but with strong connected passed pawns. Postny: 'Black forces the exchange of queens, going to an endgame with a piece down, but with strong connected passed pawns.'

[15...dxc3 16.bxc5 cxd2 17.Qxa6+ Kd7 18.Bxd2 Qxc5

A) 19.Bf4! Qc6 *(19...e5 20.Rac1; 19...Qb6 20.Rad1+ Ke8 21.Rxd8+ Kxd8 22.Rd1+ Ke7 23.Qc8 Qc5 24.Rd7+ Kf6 25.Qd8+ Kg6 26.Qe8++-* 1-0 (34) Sutovsky,E (2658)-Mikhalevski,V (2520) ICC INT 2002*)* 20.Rfd1+ *(20.Qxc6+ Kxc6 21.Rfc1+ Bc5 22.Bxc7 Rd5 23.Ba5 Kd7 24.Bc3 Rf8 25.Rc2 g6=)* 20...Bd6 21.Qa7⩲ Kc8 22.Bxd6 Rxd6 23.Rxd6 cxd6 24.Qxg7 Rd8 25.Qxh7±;

B) 19.Rfd1 Bd6 20.Be3 Qe5 *(20...Qc6∓)* 21.g3 Ra8 22.Qb7 Rab8 23.Qg2= ½-½ Gruenfeld,Y (2520)-Gyimesi,Z (2564)/Tel Aviv 2001/ (52)]

16.Qxd5 exd5 17.bxc5 dxc3 18.Nb3 d4! 19.Ba3 '!' After more or less forced sequence of moves the position is still can not be exactly evaluated. What is worth more - white's extra piece or black's passed pawns in the centre? Up to now it is well known theoretical variation, which does not have a determined evaluation yet. White has an extra piece, but black has two dangerous passed pawns. The practice shows, that in general white has preferable chances, but black's counterplay is usually sufficient for a draw. Postny: 'White has an extra piece, but black has two dangerous passed pawns. The practice shows, that in general white has preferable chances, but black's counterplay is usually sufficient for a draw.' Another common move is Possible alternative is 19...Be7 which leads to a similar position after

[The theoretical lines are: Logical alternative is ⩪19...g6 This variation is not for fainthearted, black is hoping at the compensation for the piece due to the strong central pawns c3-d4. which leads to similar positions as after the move in the text -

Hracek,Z-Haba,P/Luhacovice 2003/CBM 94 [Postny,E] The practice shows, that this move is the most precise one. Mikhalevski,V: 'Practice shows that this is the best move in the position. Black brings the bishop to g7 in order to support his central pawns.' 20.Bb4 Bg7 21.a4 Shirov has experience to play this opening variation with both colours! *(21.Rad1 d3 22.Nc1 d2 23.Ne2 Rd3 24.Nf4 Rhd8 25.Nxd3 Rxd3 26.c6 g5!⩱)*

A) Almost all previous games went with Earlier black preffered 21...Kd7 22.axb5 axb5

A1) 23.Rfd1 Ke6 Here is one of the most known games in this line. 24.Rac1

A1a) 24...Rd5!? 25.Ba5 *(25.Rd3!?; 25.c6!?)* 25...Ra8 26.Rd3 Rxa5 27.Nxa5 Rxc5 28.Kf1 b4 29.Nb3 Rd5 *(29...Kd5!! 30.Nxc5 Kxc5)* 30.Ra1± 1-0 Van den Doel,E-Timmermans,I/Deizisau/1999/ (39);

A1b) 24...Rhe8 Novelty that will be hard pressed to find any followers. Black has to use strong meassures to breath life into the pawn chain. The move 24...Rd5!? could well have been more unpleasant for Kasparov. 25.Kf1 Kf5 26.c6! g5 *(26...Re6? 27.Bxc3 Rxc6 28.Bb2+-)* 27.Ba5 Rd6 *(27...Re7 28.Bxc3+-)* 28.Bb4 *(28.Bxc7 Rxc6 29.Ba5 Rc4∓)* 28...Rdd8 29.Rd3!

A1b1) 29...Ke4 30.Rcd1

A1b11) 30...c2 31.R1d2 c1Q+ 32.Nxc1 Re6 33.Be7 Rg8 *(33...Rxc6 34.Bxd8 Rxc1+ 35.Ke2+-)* 34.Rb3;

A1b12) 30...Bf6 31.Nxd4 Bxd4 *(31...Rxd4 32.Rxd4+ Bxd4 33.Re1++-)* 32.Bxc3 Bxc3 33.f3+ Kf4 34.Rxd8+-;

A1b2) 29...g4 30.Bc5± Ke4 31.Rcd1 *(31.Bxd4? Bxd4 32.Rxd4+ Rxd4 33.Re1+ Kd5 34.Rxe8 Rb4 35.Nc1 Rb1 36.Re1 b4∓)*

A1b21) 31...Rd5 32.Bxd4 c2 *(32...Bxd4 33.Nxd4 Red8 34.Re3+ Kf4 35.Ne2++-)* 33.Re3+ Kf5 34.Rde1 Rxe3 35.fxe3+-;

A1b22) 31...c2 32.R1d2 Bh6 33.f3++-;

A1b23) 31...h5 32.Nxd4!+- 1-0 Kasparov,G (2849)-Shirov,A (2718)/ Linares 2001/[(38) Ftacnik: 'Black dreams about strong counterplay are dying with the pawn d4. With the exact white's play the whole black's queenside will be eliminated.';

A2) 23.Rad1 Ke6

A2a) 24.Rd3 Kd5

A2a1) 25.Na5? Ra8 26.Rfd1 *(26.Bxc3 Ke4 27.Rfd1 dxc3 28.Re3+ Kf5* 0-1 Sargissian,G-Danilovic,A/Moscow/1997/ (55)*)* 26...Rxa5 27.Bxa5 Kc4-+;

A2a2) 25.Bxc3 Kc4 26.Rfd1 dxc3 27.Na5+ Kxc5 28.Nb7+ Kc4 29.Na5+ '=' Shirov. *(29.Nxd8?? c2-+)* 29...Kb4 30.Nc6+ Kc4 31.Na5+=;

A2b) 24.Rfe1+

A2b1) 24...Kf7 Wedberg 25.Rd3 *(25.c6 Rhe8)* 25...Rhe8 26.Red1±;

A2b2) 24...Kd5

A2b21) 25.Na5 c2

A2b211) 26.Rd3 Bh6 27.Bd2 Bxd2 28.Rxd2 Ra8 29.Nb3 Kc4 30.Nc1 *(30.Nxd4 Rhd8!)* 30...d3 31.Re4+ Kc3 32.Rxd3+ Kb2 33.Re1 Ra3 34.Rxa3 *(34.Rd4 Ra4)* 34...Kxa3 35.Re3+ Kb2 36.Nd3+ Kc3 '=' Shirov. 37.Ne1+ *(37.Kf1 b4* '=' Shirov. *38.Ne1+ Kb2 39.Nd3+ Kc3=)* 37...Kb2 *(37...Kd2? 38.Kf1 c1N 39.Nf3+ Kd1 40.Re1+ Kc2 41.Nd4+ Kd2 42.Nxb5±)* 38.Nd3+ Kc3=;

A2b212) 26.Rd2 c1Q 27.Rxc1 Bh6∞;

A2b22) 25.Bxc3 Kc4

A2b221) 26.Na5+ Kxc3 27.Rc1+ Kb2! '=' Shirov. *(27...Kd2?? 28.Kf1 Kd3 29.Nc6+-; 27...Kd3?? 28.Nc6 Rde8 29.Nb4+ Kd2 30.Red1+ Ke2 31.Rd3 Bh6 32.Rc2+ Ke1 33.Rb3+-)* 28.Rb1+

A2b2211) 28...Ka2 29.Ra1+ *(29.Nc6?! d3! 30.Nxd8 Rxd8 31.Rxb5 d2 32.Rd1 Bc3!⩱)* 29...Kb2=;

A2b2212) 28...Kc3 29.Rbc1+ Kb2=;

A2b222) 26.Ba5! Kxb3 27.Rb1+ Kc4 28.Rec1+ Kd5 29.c6! Kd6! *(29...Be5? 30.Rxb5+ Ke6 31.Rxe5+ Kxe5 32.Bxc7+ Kd5 33.Bxd8 Rxd8 34.c7 Rc8 35.Kf1 Kd6 36.Ke2+-)* 30.Rxb5= 1-0 (49) Shirov,A (2690)-Timman,J (2620) Wijk aan Zee 1996;

B) 21...bxa4 In this particular position this move is new, although the idea itself was already tried after 19...Be7 20.Bb4 Bf6 21.a4 bxa4. worth considering.

B1) 22.Rxa4 d3 *(22...Kd7!?)* 23.c6 is a transposition.;

B2) 22.c6! Black must take into account this reply, before playing 21...bxa4. The black king is in danger now, but black's central pawns still can save him. Postny: 'Black must take into account this reply, before playing 21...bxa4. The black king is in danger now, but black's central pawns still can save him.' 22...d3! *(22...axb3?? 23.Rxa6 Kb8 24.Rfa1* mating. *)* 23.Rxa4 is a transposition. d2 24.Rxa6 Kb8 25.Nxd2 *(* A curious variation arises after *25.Bc5?! d1Q 26.Ba7+ Kc8 27.Bd4 Qxb3 28.Ra8+ Qb8 29.Rxb8+ Kxb8 30.Rb1+ Kc8 31.Ra1 Kb8=)* 25...cxd2 26.Rd1 *(* The tactical tricks does not work: *26.Bd6? cxd6 27.Rb1+ Kc8; 26.Bxd2? Rxd2 27.Rb1+ Rb2 28.Rba1 Kc8)* 26...Rhe8 27.Kf1± Re1+ Postny: 'After the exchange of one pair of rooks, the black king is out of danger.' 28.Rxe1 dxe1Q+ 29.Bxe1 Bd4± Hracek,Z (2601)-Haba,P (2516)/Luhacovice 2003/ (38) is almost like a draw but who wants to suffer for a draw? Mikhalevski,V: 'White is a pawn up, but black's resources seems to be sufficient for maintaining the balance. White's main concern is a weakness of ♙c6;

C) 21...d3 '!' '!' The recent games prove that this move allows Black to equalize the game. 22.axb5 d2 This position is a headache for White these days.

C1) 23.c6 '!?' It seems that after this novelty white is in serious trouble! A very fresh idea in this line was tested in a recent match in Mainz. Kb8 '!' Moving the king out of the mating net.

C1a) 24.bxa6 c2 25.Nxd2 Bxa1 26.Rxa1 Rhe8 '□' Now Morozevich's

idea will not work. 27.Rc1 Re4 '!' 28.Bc3 *(28.Nxe4?? Rd1+)* 28...Rc4 '!' 29.Rxc2 *(29.Ba5* is bad in view of *Rc5! 30.Bb4 Rb5 31.Bc3 Rb1!-+; 29.Nxc4?? Rd1+)* 29...Rd3 '!' -28.Bc3. Finally we got the position from the game Morozevich-Ponomariov with the only, but very important difference. The moves c6 and Kb8 are included and so White can't save a piece. Mikhalevski,V: '-28.Bc3.' 30.Rb2+ *(30.Nxc4?? Rd1+)* The difference between the game and 30...Ka7-+ '-+' Postny. can be seen in the following line. *(30...Ka8!* The only chance to play for a win is to keep the c7-pawn. *31.Ba5 Rc1+ 32.Nf1 Rdd1∓* 0-1 (69) Garcia,G (2461)-Mikhalevski,V (2551) Montreal 2004 Finally Black wins a piece and obtains real chances for a win.*)* 31.Ba5 Rc1+ 32.Nf1 Rdd1 33.g3 Rxf1+ 34.Kg2 Rg1+ 35.Kh3! *(35.Kf3? Rxc6 36.Rb7+? Kxa6 37.Rxc7 Rf6+!)* 35...Rxc6 36.Rb7+ This move is possible thanks to position of the black king on a7. Kxa6 37.Rxc7! and I believe it would be impossible to win on one flank.;

C1b) 24.Nc5 c2 *(24...axb5? 25.Nd7+ Rxd7 26.cxd7 Rd8 27.Ra2 Rxd7 28.Rd1 Rd5 29.Rc2 Rd4 30.Bxc3 Rc4 31.Bxg7 Rxc2 32.Kf1+-)* 25.Nd7+ Rxd7 26.cxd7 Bxa1 27.Bxd2 Rd8-+;

C1c) 24.Bc5 Rhe8!-+ 25.Rxa6 Re1-+;

C1d) 24.Rad1 The alternatives are not better. 24...Rd5 '!' *(24...axb5!? 25.Nc5 Rd5)* 25.bxa6 Rhd8 26.Na1 Moving the knight to a blockading square c2, but this blockade is quite shaky. Postny: 'Moving the knight to a blockading square c2, but this blockade is quite shaky.' Ka7 27.Nc2 Rb8 White's main problem, is that all his pieces are very passive. Postny: 'White's main problem, is that all his pieces are very passive.' 28.Rb1 *(*Also unattractive for white is *28.f4 Rdb5 29.Ba3 Kxa6* , though it was probably a better chance. *)*

C1d1) 28...Bf8! 29.Ne3 *(29.Rfd1 Rdb5-+)* 29...Rxb4 30.Nxd5 Rxb1 31.Nxc3 *(31.Rxb1 c2 32.Rb7+ Kxa6-+)* 31...Rc1-+;

C1d2) 28...Rdb5 '?' '?' Postny. It's quite strange for Anand to miss a simple win. Postny: 'It's quite strange for Anand to miss a simple win.' 29.Rb3 R8b6∓ ½ (42) Shirov,A-Anand,V/Mainz 2004/ *(29...Bf8 30.Rxc3 Bxb4 31.Nxb4 Rxb4 32.Rd3 Rb2 33.Rd1=)*;

C2) 23.bxa6 Very unusual theoretical position. Black is very correctly fighting for the real counterplay with 21...d3! and impressive central pawns. 23...c2

C2a) 24.Bxd2 '?' '?' loses a piece. Bxa1 25.Rxa1 Rhe8 '?' '?' *(25...Rd3! 26.a7 Kb7 27.Na5+ Ka8 28.Nc4 Rd4-+* and Black wins a piece.*)* 26.a7 Kb7 27.a8Q+ Rxa8 28.Rc1 ½-½ (28) Delchev,A (2624)-Gyimesi,Z (2553) Nova Gorica 2004 Here a draw was agreed, but it's possible that the game saw 24. ♘xd2, but not ♗xd2... Here a draw was agreed, but it's possible that the game saw 24.♘xd2, but not ♗xd2...;

C2b) 24.Nxd2 Bxa1 25.Rxa1

C2b1) Doesn't work 25...Rd4? in view of 26.Bc3 Rd3 27.a7! Kd7 *(27...Kb7 28.Bxh8 ⩲Rxd2?? 29.a8Q#)* 28.Bxh8 Rxd2 29.Rf1! Rd1

30.Bb2+- and the a-pawn is unstoppable.;

C2b2) 25...Rhe8 26.Rc1 Re4⇄ *(It would be wrong to attack the bishop by the other rook. 26...Rd4? 27.Bc3 Rd3 28.Rxc2 Re1+ 29.Nf1 Rb1 30.a7 Kb7 31.Ra2 Ka8 32.Bd2+-)* 27.Bc3 Rc4 '!' '!'

C2b21) 28.Rxc2 The first independent move, unfortunatelly with promotion of the a pawn white only manages to hold the balance. Ftacnik: 'The first independent move, unfortunatelly with promotion of the a pawn white only manages to hold the balance.' Rd3 29.Rb2 '!' '!' The saving idea. White cuts the black king off the a-pawn and forces an equal rook ending. *(29.Ra2? Kb8 30.Ba5 Rc1+ 31.Nf1 Rdd1)* 29...Rcxc3 *(29...Ra4? 30.a7 Rxa7 31.Rc2+-)* 30.a7 Ra3 31.Rb8+ Kd7 32.a8Q Rxa8 33.Rxa8 Rxd2 34.g4 Morozevich,A-Ponomariov,R/Biel 2004/ (41) *(34.g3)*;

C2b22) 28.a7 '?' Ftacnik '?' 28...Kb7 29.Rxc2 Rd3 30.Ra2 Ka8 31.Kf1 *(31.Ba5 Rc1+ 32.Nf1 Rdd1 33.g4 Rxf1+ 34.Kg2 Rg1+ 35.Kf3 Rxc5 36.Bd2∓)* 31...Rcxc3∓ 0-1 Berry,N-Eynon,D/Grangemouth/1999/ (44)]

[19...c2? Wedberg 20.Bb4 g6 21.a4 bxa4 22.Rxa4 Bg7 23.Rxa6± 1-0 (29) Cunningham,R-Vucic,M/Philadelphia/1992/]

[Bad is Not recommended is A new dubious idea was tested in the following game. 19...Rd5N '?' 20.Rfd1 Now white just captures one of black's passed pawns, however the matters are still not that simple... Be7 *(20...d3 21.Rac1)* 21.Rxd4 Rxd4 22.Nxd4 Bf6 23.Nb3! Preventing the a6-a5 and b5-b4 advance. *(23.Nc2 a5⇄)* 23...Re8 24.Bb4? This mistake throws away all of white's advantage. *(24.f3!* It is important to cover the e4 square. *Re2 25.Kf1 Rc2 26.c6* and black's compensation for the piece is not sufficient.*)* 24...Re4! 25.a3 *(25.Ba5 c2 26.Rc1 Rc4* is similar to the game.*)* 25...c2 26.Rc1 *(26.Rf1 Bb2* following by 27...♖c4 and after white plays 28. ♗d2 black will capture the ♙a3.*)* 26...Rc4 27.Kf1 Bb2 28.Ke2 Bxc1 29.Nxc1 Naiditsch,A (2585)-Rogers,I (2569)/Wijk aan Zee 2003/ (40) The material balance is now approximately equal as well as the evaluation of the whole endgame.]

20.Bb4 Bf6 21.a4 Kd7!

[21...d3N 22.axb5 d2 23.bxa6 *(23.c6 Kb8 24.Nc5 c2 25.Nd7+ Rxd7 26.cxd7 Bxa1 27.Bxd2 Rd8-+)* 23...c2

A) 24.c6 Kb8 25.Nxd2 Bxa1 26.Rxa1 Rxd2 27.Bxd2 Rd8 28.Kf1 Rxd2 29.Ke1 Rd6∓;

B) 24.Nxd2 Bxa1 25.Rxa1 Rd4 '=' Postny. *(25...Rxd2? 26.Bxd2 Rd8 27.a7 Kb7 28.Kf1+-)* 26.Bc3 Rd3 27.Bb4 Rd4=;

C) 24.Bxd2? Bxa1 25.Rxa1 Rd3-+;

D) 24.a7 Quite an amazing position. There are 3! pawns one move before promotion. 24...Kb7 25.a8Q+ *(25.Nxd2 Bxa1 26.Rxa1 Rd4 27.Bc3 Rd3 28.Bb4 Rhd8 29.Kf1 R3d4 30.Bc3 Rd3=)* 25...Rxa8 26.Rxa8 c1Q *(After 26...d1Q? 27.Rxh8* white has significant material advantage.*)* 27.Nxc1 dxc1Q

28.Ra7+?! Useful intermediate check forcing black's king to a less active place. However in the forthcoming endgame white's winning chances are very low. *(*Stronger seems to me: *28.Rxh8 Qb2 29.Be1* White will sooner or later coordinate his rooks and will get reasonable winning chances.*)* 28...Kxa7 29.Rxc1 Rd8 Goloshchapov,A (2569)-Mastrovasilis,D (2533)/Topola 2004/ (41) Black is a pawn down, but can draw this position relatively easily using his pieces activity and white's ♙c5 weakness. Black is a pawn down, but can draw this position relatively easily using his pieces activity and white's ♙c5 weakness.]

[21...bxa4 22.Rxa4 d3 23.Rxa6 d2 24.c6 Kb8 25.Nxd2 cxd2 26.Bxd2?? *(26.Rd1)* 26...Rxd2 27.Rb1+ Rb2 28.Rba1 Kc8 0-1 Dovliatov,S-Mamedyarov,S/ Baku 2000/ (28)]

22.axb5 axb5 23.Ra6

[23.Rfd1 Ke6 24.Rac1 Rd5∞ 25.Rd3 c6 26.Ra1 *(26.f3 Ra8 27.Re1+ Kf7 28.Ra1 Rxa1+ 29.Nxa1 Rd8 30.Nc2 Ra8* 0-1 Harley,A-Morris,P/Stockholm/ 1994/ (31) *)* 26...Kf7 27.Kf1 Harley,A-Ernst,T/London/1991/ (48)]

23...c6

[23...Ke7]

[23...Ra8 24.Rxf6! gxf6 25.Nxd4± ½-½ Martinez Lozano,M-Baron Rodriguez,J/ Spain 1998/ (31)]

24.Rd1 Ke6

[24...c2]

25.Rxc6+ Kd5 26.Rxf6! Kc4!

[26...gxf6 27.Rxd4+ Kc6 28.Bxc3]

27.Rf4

[27.Rd6 Rxd6 28.cxd6 Kxb3 *(28...Kxb4 29.Nxd4 Kc4 30.d7 b4 31.Nc2 Rd8 32.Rd4+ Kc5 33.Rxb4 Rxd7 34.Rb1* 1-0 McDonald,N-Morris,P/London/1994/ (37) *)* 29.Rxd4+- 1-0 (54) Dimitrov,V (2495)-Korneev,O (2590) Linares 1996]

27...Kxb3 28.Rdxd4 Rxd4 29.Rxd4 Ra8= ½ (55) Timman,J (2625)-Smyslov,V (2560) Bad Lauterberg 1979

[75] **13.Qxf7+** Kd8 and Black seems to hold.

[76] **14.e6** Qf6 15.Qd5 Nxe6 16.Re1 Qxf7 17.Ne4 h6 18.Nc5 Kd8 19.Nxe6+ Kc8 20.Bf4 Ra7 21.Bxc7 Bxe6 22.Qxc6 Bd7 23.Qb6 Rb7 24.Qxa6 Kxc7 25.Qa5+ Kb8 26.a4 Bc5-+ 0-1 (26) Sedlak,N (2519)-Todorovic,G (2548) Topola 2004

[77] **15.Qe2** d3∞ ~

[Bad is 15...Bg4? 16.Nf3 Qf5 17.Qxe5+ Qxe5 18.Nxe5+- 1-0 Pinter,E-Federic, P/Komarno 1999/ (24)]

16.Qe1 Re8! This is the move I prepared for the game. It looks better than the previously played 16...c6.

[16...c6 17.f4 Qh6 18.Bf3! Kd8 19.fxe5± 1-0 Wolff,P-Flear,G/London 1990/ (34)]
17.f4
[Worse is 17.Nf3? Qh5 18.Nxe5 Kd6!]
17...Qg4
[17...Qh5!?]
18.Qxe5+
[Probably better is 18.fxe5 Kd8 19.Nf3 c6 20.Bf7 Re7 21.Bg5 Kc7 22.Bxe7 Bxe7 23.Nd4 Bh4 24.Qe3± 0-1 (48) Cheparinov,I (2478)-Mikhalevski,V (2536) Dos Hermanas 2003]
18...Kd8 19.Qd4 Ne6! A pawn sacrifice for initiative. Black forces the exchange of one of the bishops. 20.Bxe6 Rxe6 21.Qxd3
[21.Nf3∞ looks better]
21...Bc5+ 22.Kh1 Re2 23.Qf3 Qxf3 24.Nxf3 Bc6-+ ½-½ Korneev,O (2583)-Mikhalevski,V (2520)/Sao Paulo 2002/ (55) In the arised endgame Black is better thanks to his strong bishops. Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 d4 11.Ng5 Qg5 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[78] **11...d4!?** and equalized.Perhars he wasn't satisfied with the results of the opening or just decided to check another continuation this time.In my comments on that game which you can find in EXT99 I didn't find what was wrong there. Maybe someone will give it another try and we'll know more about 11...d4. In according to my database this position has been played only once before.Maybe this game will bring popularity to this unexplored line. 12.Nb3
[12.h3 Bh5 13.Nb3 d3 14.Bb1 Bg6 15.Nbd4 Qd5 16.a4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Nxa4 18.Ba2 Qb7 19.e6 ½-½ Hakki,I-Odendahl,S/Gausdal 1982/MCD (19)]
[12.Ne4? d3 13.Nxc5? '?' '?' Ftacnik,L: '?' dxc2 see 12.♘e4? 14.Qxd8+ Nxd8∓]
12...d3 13.Bb1
[13.Nxc5? dxc2 see 12.♘e4?]
13...Qd5! 'N!?' Kortschnoj. Black has been preparing ♗:f3 weakening pawn sructure on the king side and taking back e5 pawn. Kortschnoj: 'Very important, new way to treat the modern line of the open Spanish with black. If it works, then many grandmasters will be compelled to modify their opening repertoire.'
[13...Nxb3 14.axb3 Bf5 15.Be3]
14.Nxc5 Kortschnoj: 'White does not have much choice. After'
[14.h3 Kortschnoj Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Qxf3 16.gxf3 0-0-0 he has problems to equalize (17.♗e3? ♘a4)]
14...Bxc5
[Worse is 14...Bxf3? 15.Qxf3 Qxf3 16.gxf3 Bxc5 17.Bxd3 Mikhalevski,V: 'leads to above-mentioned position.' as after 0-0-0 *(17...Nxe5? 18.Re1)* 18.Bf5+ has become possible(compare with the game position with black bishop on g4).]
15.Qxd3
[15.Bxd3 0-0-0! *(15...Bxf3? 16.Qxf3 Qxf3 17.gxf3* leads to above-mentioned

position.) 16.Be2 (*16.Bc2?! Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Qxf3 18.gxf3 Nxe5* leads to the game with white's bishop on c2 instead of e4 that is in the black's favour.)

A) 16...Qe4!? 17.Qe1 Nxe5 18.Nxe5 Bxe2! 19.Nxf7 Rd1 20.Qxd1 Bxd1 21.Nxh8 Bc2!

A1) 22.Nf7? Bd3 23.Rd1 (*23.Ng5 Bxf2+!*) 23...Qe2 24.Be3 Bxe3 25.fxe3 Be4-+;

A2) 22.Be3! Bxe3 23.fxe3 Qxe3+ 24.Kh1 Bd3⩲;

B) 16...Qxd1!? 17.Bxd1 (*17.Rxd1 Bxf3 18.Rxd8+ Rxd8* and Black is OK.) 17...Bxf3 18.Bxf3 was safer. Nxe5= Kortschnoj '=' Kortschnoj '=' Ftacnik,L: '=' 19.Bh5 Nd3 and black has no problems.]

15...Qxd3 16.Bxd3 0-0-0! Kortschnoj: 'On the move 12 white could interpose h3 ♗h5, then long castle would not be possible due to ♗f5+...'

[16...Bxf3? leads to 14...♗:f3?]

17.Be4

[17.Be2?! Nxe5! 18.Nxe5 (*18.a4?! Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 Bh3∓*) 18...Bxe2 19.Re1 (*19.Nxf7 Bxf1 20.Nxd8 Bc4 21.Nc6 Re8 22.Be3 Bxe3 23.fxe3 Rxe3∓*) 19...Bh5 (*19...Rhe8!?*)]

17...Bxf3 18.gxf3 Leko is still trying to fight for an advantage. Kortschnoj: 'Or'

[18.Bxf3 was safer. Nxe5=]

18...Nxe5 19.a4! '?' Kortschnoj. Kortschnoj: 'A critical line is'

[19.b4 Kortschnoj followed by a2-a4 , e.g. Bd6 20.a4 Kd7 21.Bb7 (*21.Be3 g5 22.Bb7 Rb8 23.Bxa6 Nxf3+ 24.Kg2 Nh4+ 25.Kh1 bxa4 26.Bxg5±* 1-0 (40) Luther,T (2507)-Haba,P (2544) Pardubice 1999) 21...Rb8 22.Bxa6 Nxf3+ 23.Kg2 Nxh2 24.Rh1 Ng4 25.Bxb5+ - white, having two bishops, stands somewhat better.]

19...b4!

[19...Rhe8? 20.axb5 axb5 21.b4! Bb6 22.f4! Nd7 23.Bc6!]

20.Bg5!?

[20.Be3!? Bxe3 21.fxe3 Rd2 (*21...g6!?*) 22.cxb4 Rxb2 23.b5! axb5 (*23...a5 24.Rf2±*) 24.axb5 Rxb5 25.Ra8+ Rb8 26.Ra7!↑ (*26.Rxb8+ Kxb8 27.Rb1+ Kc8! 28.Bf5+ Nd7 29.Ra1 Rf8!*)]

20...f6 21.cxb4

[21.Be3!?]

21...Bxb4 22.Be3 Nc4

[22...g6!? is a way to try to catch initiative.]

23.Bf4 Bd2!

[23...Bd6 24.b3! Bxf4 25.bxc4]

24.b3! Nd6!= ½-½ Leko,P (2665)-Anand,V (2795)/Tilburg 1998/

[79] **12.Nb3** Rd8 13.Bg5 Nxb3 14.axb3 Be7 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Re1 Nb8 17.b4 Bh5 18.Qd3 Bg6 19.Qd2 Bxc2 20.Qxc2 0-0 21.Nd4 Rfe8 22.Re3 c5 23.bxc5 Qxc5 24.e6+- 1-0 Sorokin,M (2535)-Sorin,A (2505)/San Martin 1995/ (44) 1-0 Sorokin,M (2535)-Sorin,A (2505)/San Martin 1995/ (44) Ftacnik,L: '**±**'

12.h3 Bh5 13.Nb3 Ne6 14.Re1 Be7 15.Bf5 Bg6
[15...0-0 16.Bxh7+ Kxh7 17.Ng5+ Bxg5 18.Qxh5+ Bh6 19.Bxh6 gxh6 20.Qf5+ Kh8 21.Qf6+ Kh7 22.Qf5+ 13 ½-½ Ilincic,Z-Lalic,B/YUG-ch/1989/ ½-½ Ilincic,Z-Lalic,B/YUG-ch ,CBM 1989 ½-½ Ilincic,Z-Lalic,B/YUG-ch ,CBM 1989]
16.Nfd4 '!?' 'Seems the most dangerous for Black.'
[16.Bg4
A) 16...Ncd8 17.Nfd4 *(17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.Nxg5 Qe7 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.a4 b4* ½-½ Salgado Lopez,I (2278)-Sorokin,M (2578)/Linares 2005/ *)* 17...h5 18.Bf3 Nb7 19.Nc2 c6 20.Be3 a5 21.a4 bxa4 22.Rxa4 c5 23.Ra1 Nc7 24.Bf4± ½-½ Shtyrenkov,V-Kharitonov,A/Kursk 1987/ (56) c4 25.Nc1 Rd8 26.Ne3 Qb5 27.Qa4 Qxa4 28.Rxa4± ½-½ Shtyrenkov,V-Kharitonov,A/Kursk 1987/ (56);
B) 16...h5!? An improvent on 16...♘cd8.Black decides the problem of a pin by means of a simple exchanging of the annoying bishop.As shows the game the temporary weakness of the c5 and g5 squares is not very essential. 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Be3 This move carries the same idea as below-mentioned 18.♗g5,but Leko realizes it in a bit different way. *(18.Bg5!?* was a possible alternative.The idea behind the move is very simple.White exchanges Black's black-squared bishop in order to get control under weak black squares c5 and g5.*)* 18...0-0 19.Nc5 Bxc5 20.Bxc5 Rf4 The rook should stay on the f-file and it's not difficult to discover that f4 is the only available square on it. *(20...Rf5?? 21.Nh4+-; 20...Rf7? 21.Nh4±* winning a pawn*)* 21.Nd4 *(*Or *21.Qd2 Re4)* 21...Re4 Attaking the e5-pawn Black is calling out a serial of exchanges. 22.Nxc6 *(22.Rxe4* looks more precise in order to exclude 23...♗:e4,but maybe it was a provocation?!*)* 22...Qxc6 23.Rxe4 dxe4!? *(23...Bxe4* was possible,but Piket probably was worried of his king side.Anyway he decided to defend actively and frees the d5-square for his queen.*)* 24.Qd4± ½ (46) Leko,P (2725)-Piket,J (2633) Wijk aan Zee 2000 Re8! Very important preparatory move.Black is stoping the e-pawn which could become a serious danger after inaccurate 24...♕d5?! *(24...Qd5?! 25.Qxd5 exd5 26.e6 Re8 27.e7±* with the serious chances to win bringing the king to the centre and opening the f-file by means of f3 putting first the rook on f1.*)* 25.Rd1 Qd5! After this excange White is still a little bit better,but his chances to win are not considerable.
B1) Or 26.b3 Rd8 and I don't see how White can strengthen his position as ♖e1 will be answered with ♕a8 *(26...e3!?* is also interesting.Opening the bishop Black gets sufficient compensation for a pawn. *)*;
B2) 26.Qxd5 exd5 27.Rxd5 ½-½ Leko,P (2725)-Piket,J (2633)/Wijk aan Zee 2000/ (46)]
16...0-0
[16...Ncxd4 17.Nxd4 Bxf5 18.Nxf5 Bf8 *(18...Rd8 19.Qg4 g6 20.Nxe7 h5? 21.Nxd5! Qxd5 22.Qe2 0-0 23.a4 Rfe8 24.axb5 axb5 25.Ra5 c6 26.Ra7±* 1-0 Popadic,D-Sljukic,M/JUG-chT2 1994/EXT 97 (38)*; 18...Bc5 19.Be3 Bxe3 20.Rxe3 g6 21.Nh6 Rf8 22.Ng4 0-0-0 23.Nf6 Qc6 24.Rd3 Kb7 25.Qd2 h5*

26.Rd1± 1-0 Zapata,A-Pereira,S/Buenos Aires 1998/CBM 67 ext (50) 1-0 Zapata,A-Pereira,S/Buenos Aires 1998/ (50)*)* 19.f4 g6 20.Ne3 c6 21.f5 Bashkov,V-Kreuzer,M/Budapest Spring op/1992 (36) Ng7 22.Ng4 Bc5+ 23.Be3 Bxe3+ 24.Rxe3 0-0-0 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.a4± Bashkov,V-Kreuzer,M/Budapest Spring op/1992/ (36)]

17.Bg4 Ncxd4 18.cxd4 a5 19.f4 h5 20.Bxh5 Bxh5 21.Qxh5 a4 22.Nc5 Nxc5 23.dxc5 Bxc5+ 24.Be3 Bxe3+ 25.Rxe3± 1-0 (39) Nunn,J (2600)-Tal,M (2565) Naestved 1985 25...f5 26.e6 Qe7 27.Rae1 Rad8 28.g4± 1-0 Nunn,J-Tal,M/Naestved 1985/MCL (39)

[80] **12...Rd8** 13.b4?!

[13.Nb3 '!?' -47/(419)

A) 13...Ne6

A1) 14.h3 Bh5 15.Bf5 *(15.a4)* 15...Bg6 *(15...Be7 16.a4 bxa4 17.Nbd4 Ncxd4 18.cxd4 a3 19.bxa3 c5 20.dxc5 Bxc5 21.Be3 Bxe3 22.Rxe3 0-0 23.Rc1 Bg6 24.Bxe6 fxe6 25.Nd4 Rf4 26.Rec3 Re8 27.Rc7 Qd8 28.Nxe6* 1-0 (28) Wolff,P (2580)-Sagalchik,G (2525) North Bay 1996*)* 16.Nbd4 *(16.g4 Be7 17.Nfd4 Ncxd4 18.cxd4 0-0 19.Bd2 c5 20.dxc5 d4 21.Qf3 Qd5 22.Qxd5 Rxd5 23.c6±* ½ (64) Lioe,D (2405)-Sokolov,I (2670) Jakarta 1996*)* 16...Bxf5 17.Nxf5 ½-½ (17) Yermolinsky,A (2488)-Luther,T (2524) Innsbruck 2017;

A2) 14.a4 Be7 *(14...b4 15.Qd3 Nb8 16.Nbd4 c5 17.Nxe6 Bxe6 18.Bg5 Be7 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.cxb4 c4 21.Qd2 d4 22.Be4 d3 23.Ng5 h6 24.Nxe6 Qxe6 25.b3±* 1-0 (40) Hernandez Guerrero,G (2510)-Sagalchik,G (2515) Linares 1994*)* 15.axb5 axb5 16.Qd3 Bh5 *(16...Rb8 17.Nfd4 Ncxd4 18.cxd4 c5 19.Qg3 Bh5 20.Nxc5 Bxc5 21.dxc5 Bg6 22.Bxg6 hxg6 23.b4±* ½ (50) Rodriguez Cespedes,A (2515)-Kharitonov,A (2520) Bayamo 1989 *)* 17.Qxb5 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Nxe5 19.Qxd7+ Nxd7 20.f4± 1-0 Paschall,W-Sagalchik,G/Seattle 2002/CBM 87 (53);

B) 13...Be7 14.h3 *(14.Be3 Na4 15.Qb1 Rb8 16.Nbd4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 g6 18.h3 Be6 19.f4 c5 20.f5 cxd4 21.fxe6 fxe6 22.cxd4 Rf8 23.Re2±* ½ (54) Zapata,A (2535)-Sorin,A (2505) Matanzas 1995 *)* 14...Bh5

B1) 15.Nbd4 Nxd4 16.cxd4 Ne6 17.Bf5 0-0 *(17...c5 18.dxc5 Bxc5 19.Be3 d4=* Veroci,Z-Samuelsson,L/Manila olw/ 1992 (29)*)* 18.Be3 c5 19.dxc5 d4 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Qxd4 Qc6 22.Qb4 Bxf3 23.gxf3 Rxf3 24.Qg4 Rdf8 25.b4± ½ (32) Brodsky,M (2532)-Sokolov,I (2611) Neum 2000;

B2) 15.Nxc5 Bxc5 16.a4 *(16.e6 fxe6 17.Bf5 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Qf7 19.Bxe6 Qxf3 20.Bxd5+ Ne7 21.Bxf3 0-0 22.Bg5+-* 1-0 (48) Ricardi,P (2555)-Sorokin,M (2560) Villa Gesell 1996*)* 16...Ne7 17.axb5 axb5 18.Qe2 *(18.b4 Bb6 19.Be3 Bxe3 20.Rxe3 0-0 21.Qd4 Bxf3 22.Rxf3 Rfe8 23.Bd3 Ng6 24.Re3±* ½ (39) Smirin,I (2677)-Sokolov,I (2611) Istanbul 2000 ½ (39) Smirin,I (2677)-Sokolov,I (2611) Istanbul 2000 Ftacnik,L: ' ±' Ftacnik,L: '½-½ Smirin,I-Sokolov,I/Istanbul 2000/ (39)'*)* 18...Bxf3 19.Qxf3 0-0 20.h4 Ftacnik,L: '±'

Ftacnik,L: '1-0 Short,N-Mikhalevski,V/Ohrid 2001/CBM 84 (44)' Qe6 21.Bg5 Rde8 22.b4 Bb6 23.h5± 1-0 (44) Short,N (2676)-Mikhalevski,V (2523) Ohrid 2001]

[13.h3 Bh5

A) 14.b4!? '?' Ne6 15.Nb3 '?' *(15.a3 d4 16.Bb2 d3!?∓)* 15...d4! 16.Be4 dxc3 *(16...d3 17.Re3⊙ Nxe5 18.g4 Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 Bg6 20.Bc6+-)* 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7 18.a3 *(18.Rd1+ Kc8 19.Be3 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Nxe5-+)* 18...Bxf3 19.gxf3 g5∓ 0-1 Nijboer,F (2525)-Sulskis,S (2515)/Yerevan 1996/(34) *(19...Nxe5 20.f4 Nc4 21.f5±)*;

B) 14.Nb3;

C) 14.Nf1 d4 -62/(374) *(14...Be7 15.g4 Bg6 16.Ng3* This is probably better than *16...Bxc2* played by Ivanchuk against Sergey. *17.Qxc2 Ne6 18.a4 0-0 19.axb5 axb5 20.Nf5 Rfe8 21.Be3 Bf8 22.Rad1=* ½ (80) Movsesian,S (2666)-Ivanchuk,V (2719) Polanica Zdroj 2000*)* 15.Ng3 Bg6 16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Bg5 Be7 18.Bxe7

C1) 18...Kxe7!? 19.Qd2 *(19.cxd4 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Qxd4 21.Qf3 Qxb2! 22.e6 Nxe6 23.Qc6 Qd4 24.Qxc7+ Rd7 25.Qc6 Rb8=* Zagrebelny,S-Kharitonov,A/Tashkent/1985/0,5/25/*)* 19...Ne6 20.Rad1 dxc3 21.Qc1 Qc8 22.Qxc3 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Rd8 24.Rc1∞ Klovans,J-Kharitonov,A/Omsk/1985/0,5/24/;

C2) 18...Qxe7 19.cxd4 Nxd4! 20.Nxd4 Ne6 21.Nge2 c5= 22.Nc6 Rxd1 23.Nxe7 Rxe1+= Martin del Campo,R-Sagalchik,G/Linares/1994/0,5/23/]

[13.Nf1

A) 13...Bh5?! -47/(419) 14.Ng3 Bg6 15.Nd4 Ne6 16.Be3 Ncxd4 17.cxd4 Bb4 18.Re2 c5 19.Nf5 0-0 20.a3 cxd4 21.Nxd4 Be7 22.f4 Bc5 23.Nxe6 Bxe3+ 24.Rxe3 fxe6 25.Bxg6 hxg6 26.Qg4= 1-0 (65) Kotronias,V (2505)-Sokolov,I (2580) Dortmund 1989;

B) 13...Be7

B1) 14.Ng3!? d4 15.h3 *(15.cxd4 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Nxd4∓ 17.Bb1 Qc6 18.Be4? 18.♔g2 Nxe4)* 15...d3 *(15...Bxf3 16.Qxf3 d3 17.Bb3 0-0 18.Nf5↑* Palecek-Hracek,Z/CSR/1988/0,5 (33)*/)* 16.hxg4 dxc2 17.Qxd7+ *(17.Qxc2 Qxg4 18.Qf5 Qg6 19.Be3 0-0 20.Re2 Ne6 21.Qh3 Rd5 22.Nf5 Re8 23.N3d4 Nxe5 24.f4 Nc6∓* ½ (72) Thipsay,P (2475)-Marin,M (2545) Linares 1996*)* 17...Rxd7 18.Nf5 Nd3 19.Re2 0-0 20.N5d4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 c5 22.Rd2 Nxc1 23.Rxc1 cxd4 24.Rcxc2 d3 25.Rc3 Rfd8 ½-½ Vokarev,S-Golod,V/Ubeda 2001/ (28) 26.Rb3 Rd5 27.Kf1 h6 28.Ne1 Rxe5= ½-½ (28) Vokarev,S (2492)-Golod,V (2591) Ubeda 2001;

B2) 14.Ne3

B2a) 14...Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nxe5 16.Qg3 Ng6 17.Nf5± Ne6 *(17...Ne4 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.Nxg7+ Kf8 20.Bh6 Kg8 21.Rxe4 Bf6 22.Ne8 Rxe8 23.Qxc7 Qd8 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Rd1± ½* (57) Kovacevic,A (2536)-Todorovic,G (2480) Vrnjacka Banja 2006 *)* 18.h4→

B2a1) 18...h5? Mikhalevski,V is refuted by 19.Rxe6! with easy win after

both captures: Qxe6 *(19...fxe6 20.Qxg6+ Kf8 21.Qxg7+)* 20.Nxg7+;

B2a2) 18...Bf6 19.Bg5!±

B2a21) In the only preceding game Black lost in few moves: 19...Kf8 Mikhalevski,V 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.h5 Ngf4 22.Qh4 Rg8 23.Qxf6

B2a211) ⌓23...Nxh5 24.Qh6+↑;

B2a212) 23...Nxg2!? 24.Qh6+ Ke8 25.Qxh7 Kf8 26.Qh6+ Ke8 27.Ng7+ Rxg7 28.Qh8+! *(28.Qxg7 Nxe1 29.Rxe1 Qe7)* 28...Ke7 29.Qxg7 Nxe1 30.Rxe1±;

B2a213) 23...Rxg2+? 24.Kh1+- Ng7 25.Re7 1-0 Rajcsanyi,Z-Kovacevic,B/Budapest 1994/ (25) 1-0 Rajcsanyi,Z-Kovacevic,B/Budapest 1994/EXT 97 (25);

B2a22) 19...Ne7 Mikhalevski,V: 'So far all the moves were forced and had already been played with no much success in a game you would be able to see below. Only the last Black's move is an attempt to strengthen black's play in that game.' 20.Bxf6 gxf6

B2a221) ⌓21.Re3! Rg8 22.Qf3 Ng6 23.Qh5 Ngf4 *(23...Ngf8 24.Rae1±)* 24.Qxh7±;

B2a222) 21.Qf3?! Nxf5 22.Qxf5 Qe7 *(22...Ke7 23.Re3 Rdg8 24.Rae1±)* 23.Rad1 Mikhalevski,V: 'Possible continuation,but 23.a4! seems to be much stronger.' *(23.a4!* Mikhalevski,V was probably the best way of initiative development. *c6 24.axb5 axb5 25.Ra6 Rc8 26.Rea1 Kf8 27.h5! △Kg7 28.Ra7 Rc7 29.Ra8! Nd8 30.Qg4+ Kf8 31.h6 Rg8 32.Qf4* and Black is on the edge of precipice.*)* 23...c6 24.Rd3 1-0 Hracek,Z (2629)-Zapolskis,A (2399)/Batumi 1999/ (41) Kd7 25.Rf3± 1-0 (41) Hracek,Z (2629)-Zapolskis,A (2399) Batumi 1999;

B2b) 14...Bh5

B2b1) 15.Nf5 '?!' Doesn't promise much as it allows to meet b4 with ♘e4:

B2b11) 15...Ne6 16.a4± Bronstein,D-Makagonov,V/Moscow/1944/ '?!' b4 *(16...0-0 17.axb5 axb5 18.Qd3 Bg6 19.Qxb5 Bxf5 20.Bxf5 Nxe5 21.Qxd7 Nxd7 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Rxe6 Bd6 24.Bg5± ½ (87) Spoelman,W (2493)-Mikhalevski,V (2608) Budva 2009)* 17.a5 Na7 18.Qd3 Nb5± Woda,J- Hracek,Z, Poznan 1987;

B2b12) 15...0-0 16.Nxe7+ *(16.h3 Ne6 17.Be3 Rfe8 18.g4 Bg6 19.a4 Bc5∞* Brodskij,M-Marin/Bucuresti/1994/-/33 *)* 16...Nxe7

B2b121) 17.Qd4 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Ne6 19.Qh4 Ng6 20.Qg4 d4 21.Be4 Rfe8 22.Qg3 dxc3 23.bxc3 Nc5 24.Bg5 Nxe4 25.Rxe4 Rc8∓ 0-1 Gruenfeld,Y (2545)-Kortschnoj,V (2630)/Zagreb 1987/ (55) 0-1 (55) Gruenfeld,Y (2545)-Kortschnoj,V (2630) Zagreb 1987;

B2b122) 17.Be3 Na4 *(17...Ne4 18.Qd3 Ng6 19.Bc1 Rde8 20.Nd4 Nc5 21.Qg3 Ne4 22.Bxe4 dxe4 23.Rxe4 c5∓*

½ (49) Mestel,A (2510)-Kortschnoj,V (2640) Beersheba 1988 *)*

B2b1221) 18.Qd3 Ng6 *(18...Bg6 19.Qe2 Nf5 20.Bxa4 bxa4 21.Bc5 Rfe8 22.Qxa6 Rb8 23.Ba3 Rb6 24.Qe2 Bh5 25.Qd3±* ½ (78) Spangenberg,H (2500)-Sorin,A (2505) San Martin 1995*)* 19.b3 *(19.e6 fxe6 20.Ne5 Nxb2 21.Nxd7 Nxd3 22.Nxf8 Nxe1 23.Bxg6 Bxg6 24.Nxg6 Nc2 25.Ne7+ Kf8 26.Nc6 Rd6-+* 0-1 (47) Marjanovic,S (2505)-Kortschnoj,V (2630) Belgrade 1987*)* 19...Bxf3 20.gxf3 Qh3 21.Bd2 Nc5 22.Qf5 Qxf5 23.Bxf5 Rfe8 24.Be3 Ne6 25.Bxg6 hxg6∓ ½ (41) Van der Wiel,J (2560)-Hjartarson,J (2615) Rotterdam 1989;

B2b1222) 18.Bc1 h6 19.h3 c5 20.Qd3 Bg6 21.Qd2 Qe6 22.b3 Nb6 23.Ba3 Rc8 24.Bb2 Rfd8 25.Nh4 Be4= ½ (70) Hamdouchi,H (2513)-Korneev,O (2619) Malaga 2000;

B2b123) 17.b4 Ne4! *(17...Na4 18.Bxh7+ Kxh7 19.e6* 1-0 (19) Huebner,R (2610)-Kortschnoj,V (2630) Tilburg 1987*)* 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.Qxd7 Rxd7 20.Ng5 Bg6 21.e6 Rd3!= 0-1 Sokolov,A (2635)-Kortschnoj,V (2630)/Tilburg 1987/ (52) ' ⇄!' Sokolov,A-Korchnoi,V/Tilburg/1987/0:1 (52)/ 22.exf7+ Bxf7 23.Nxe4 Nd5 24.f3 Bg6 25.Kf2∓ 0-1 (52) Sokolov,A (2635)-Kortschnoj,V (2630) Tilburg 1987;

B2b2) 15.Bf5 Ne6 16.g4 *(16.Nc2 0-0 17.a4 Rfe8 18.axb5 axb5 19.Qd3 Bg6 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.Be3 b4 22.Red1 bxc3 23.bxc3 Bf8 24.Qf1 Ne7 25.Ncd4 Nxd4 26.cxd4 Nf5* ½-½ (26) Chandler,M (2560)-Hjartarson,J (2520) Novi Sad 1990*)* 16...Bg6 17.Qc2!? N *(17.a4)* 17...0-0 18.Rd1 d4 19.cxd4 Ncxd4 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.Qe4 *(21.Bxd7 Nxc2 22.Nxc2 Bxc2 23.Rd2 Be4∓)* 21...c5!

B2b21) 22.Bxd7? Bxe4 23.Bf5 Nf3+∓;

B2b22) 22.Bd2 Δ♗a5 Qc6 23.Qxc6 Nxc6 24.f4 c4 *(24...Nd4!?)* 25.Be1 Bc5 26.Bf2 Nb4∓;

B2b23) 22.b4 Qa7! 23.Bb2 *(23.bxc5? Ne2+ 24.Kf1 Nc3-+)* 23...Ne6!∓ 24.bxc5 *(24.Nd5?! cxb4 25.Nxb4 Ng5∓)* 24...Bxc5∓;

B2b24) 22.f4 b4! Δ♕b5-e2, ∓;

B2b25) 22.b3 Bg5∓ 0-1 (36) Nisipeanu,L (2595)-Marin,M (2527) Sovata 1999

B2b251) 23.Bb2 Bxe3 24.fxe3 *(24.Qxe3 Nxf5)* 24...Bxf5 25.gxf5 Qxf5 26.Qxf5 *(26.Rxd4 Qg5+ 27.Qg4 Qxe3+)* 26...Nxf5 27.Kf2 g6!?∓ Δ♘g7-e6;

B2b252) 23.Kg2 Nxf5 24.gxf5 *(24.Rxd7 Nh4+ 25.Kg3 Bxe4-+)* 24...Bxf5!-+;

B2b253) 23.Kh1 Nxf5 24.Rxd7 Ng3+ 25.hxg3 Bxe4+ 26.Kh2 Rxd7-+;

B2b254) 23.Kf1 Nxf5 24.Rxd7 Ng3+ 25.hxg3 Bxe4 26.Rxd8 Rxd8 27.f4 Be7∓ Δc5-c4, Rogozenko;

B2b255) 23.f4 Bxf5 24.gxf5 Bxf4;
B2b256) 23.Ba3 b4! *(23...Qa7?! ×f5)* 24.Bxb4⊕ *(24.Bb2 Bxe3 25.fxe3 Bxf5 26.gxf5 Qxf5)* 24...Qb5! *(24...cxb4? 25.Bxd7)* 25.Be1 *(25.Bd2 Qe2 26.Kg2 Ne6!-+; 25.Ba3 Ne2+ 26.Kg2 Nc3∓)* 25...Qe2 0-1 Nisipeanu,L (2595)-Marin,M (2527)/Sovata 1999/ (36);

B2b3) 15.b4! Ne6 *(*Doesn't work *15...Ne4?* because of *16.Nxd5!* and Black is in trouble as '+-' and Black is in trouble as *Nxf2?* is met by *17.Kxf2 Qxd5 18.Qxd5 Rxd5 19.Be4 Bxf3 20.Bxf3+-)*

B2b31) 16.Nf5

B2b311) 16...0-0 '⩲'

B2b3111) 17.Nxe7+ Qxe7! *(17...Nxe7? 18.Bxh7+!±)* 18.Qe2 f6!=;

B2b3112) 17.a4 Creating a threat of double attack.

B2b31121) 17...Bg6!? Another logical defence against ♕d3. 18.Be3 *(18.axb5 axb5 19.Qe2 Kh8 20.Kh1 Rb8 21.Rd1±* Ernst-Collett, Limhamn 1991.*)* 18...d4 *(18...Rfe8!?)* 19.axb5 axb5 20.N5xd4 Ncxd4 21.Nxd4 Bxb4= Vazquez,R-Marin,M/Andorra/1991/0,5 (26)/ '=' Vazquez,R-Marin,M/Andorra/1991/0,5 (26)/ 22.Bxg6 hxg6 23.Qb3 Nxd4 24.Bxd4 Be7 25.Ra7 Qc6 Now after 26.h3 draw was agreed in Vazquez,R-Marin,M/Andorra 1991/ (26) however after draw was agreed in Vazquez,R-Marin,M/Andorra 1991/EXT 97 (26) however after *(26.e6!* White's position looks very promising *)*;

B2b31122) 17...Rb8!? Piket finds a new idea.This move looks most logical.Black simply defends the b5 pawn avoiding slightly worse endgames which arise after 17... ♖fe8. 18.axb5 axb5 19.Ra6 *(19.Qd3 Bg6 20.Rd1 Rfd8* Another point of 17... ♖fb8.The d8-square becomes availabe,in this case for another rook.*)* 19...Rfe8! Good defensive move based on the precise calculation.Black is not afraid of the ideas with ♗:h7. Now after both 20. ♘:e7 ♖:e7 ♗:h7 and 20. ♕d3 Black keeps the position. *(19...Bg6* was also possible in order to meet *20.Rxc6?!* with *Bxf5* ,but probably Jeroen didn't want to take his bishop from the h5-d1-diagonal where it's still useful. *)*

B2b311221) An attempt to win a pawn doesn't bring fruits: 20.Nxe7+

B2b3112211) 20...Nxe7? 21.Bxh7+± △Kxh7 22.Ng5+

B2b31122111) 22...Kg6? 23.g4!+- *(23.Qd3+!? Nf5 24.Re3)*;

B2b31122112) 22...Nxg5 23.Qxh5+ Kg8 24.Bxg5±;

B2b3112212) 20...Rxe7! 21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Ng5+

B2b31122121) Very dangerous is 22...Kg6?

because of 23.Qd3+ f5 24.Qg3! *(*But not *24.exf6+?! Kxf6 25.Nh7+ Kf7 26.Qf5+ Kg8 27.Qxh5* which also looks good,but here Black suddenly comes with *Nc5!* and White should have forced the draw by perpetual check. *28.Rxe7 Qxe7 29.Nf6+!! gxf6 30.Qg6+ Kh8 31.Qh6+=)* 24...f4! 25.Bxf4 Nxf4 26.Qxf4→ with very strong attack;

B2b31122122) 22...Nxg5 23.Qxh5+ Kg8

B2b311221221) 24.Qxg5 Nxe5! 25.Be3 *(25.Rxe5?? Rxe5 26.Qxe5 Re8)* 25...Nc4=;

B2b311221222) 24.Bxg5 Rxe5 25.Rxe5 Nxe5=;

B2b311222) 20.Qd3 Bg6 21.Rd1 Red8! This move is possible thanks to a tactical trick: 22.Rxc6? Bxf5 23.Qxf5 g6!∓ winning an exchange *(23...Qxc6?? 24.Qxh7+ Kf8 25.Qh8#)*;

B2b311223) 20.h3 Bf8

B2b3112231) Interesting is 21.Qd3!? Bg6 22.N3h4 and now after sudden Nxb4 *(22...Ned8!?)* 23.cxb4 Bxb4 24.Re3 Nc5 White is still on top with the help of counter blow 25.Rxg6! hxg6 *(25...Nxd3?! 26.Rxg7+ Kh8 27.Rxd3→)* 26.Qd4! gxf5 27.Bxf5! Qe7 28.Qxb4±;

B2b3112232) 21.g4 Bg6 22.Be3 Ned8 This time knight is making use of the d8-square.Now it's not so simple to make progress so Emms decides to repeat the moves. 23.Bf4 Ne6 24.Be3 Ned8 25.Bf4 ½-½ Emms,J (2527)-Piket,J (2649)/Mondariz 2000/ Despite only 25 moves were made the game is important for the theory of this line. ½-½ (25) Emms,J (2527)-Piket,J (2649) Mondariz 2000 Despite only 25 moves were made the game is important for the theory of this line.;

B2b31123) Black also tried 17...f6? 18.axb5 axb5 19.Ra6?! 0-1 Cuartas,J-Pilgaard,K/Ubeda 1998/ (28) 0-1 Cuartas,J-Pilgaard,K/Ubeda 1998/CBM 62 ext (28) *(⌓19.Qd3! g6 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Bh6±)*;

B2b31124) 17...Rfe8 was the most popular reaction on 17.a4, but after 18.axb5 axb5 19.Qd3 Bg6

B2b311241) After 20.Rd1 Bf8

B2b3112411) Mikhalevski,V 21.Qxb5 Nxe5 △22.Qxd7 **'Δ'** *(22.Qe2 Nc4)* 22...Nxd7= *(22...Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 Rxd7)*;

B2b3112412) 21.Be3 Ra8 *(21...d4?! 22.Qe2±)* 22.h3 *(22.Rab1!?)* 22...Rxa1 23.Rxa1 Portish equalized with

the help of typical break in the centre: d4= 24.Bxd4□ '□' Nexd4 25.N3xd4 *(25.cxd4 Nxb4 26.Qe4 Nxc2-+)* 25...Rxe5 26.Qf3 ½-½ Balashov,Y (2600)-Portisch,L (2650)/Moscow 1981/ Ruy Lopez Open Variation-8.de5 ♗e6 9.c3 ♘c5 Survey 2023 ½-½ Balashov,Y-Portisch,L/ Moscow 1981/ (26);

B2b311242) 20.g4 is also interesting as logical from the first sight f6? is bad in a view of 21.Ra6! with very unpleasant pressure.For instance

B2b3112421) After 21...Nxe5? Black lost by force 22.Rxe5! fxe5 23.Nxe5 Qc8 24.Nxg6+- Qxa6 *(24...hxg6 25.Nh6+!+-)* 25.Ngxe7+ Rxe7 26.Nxe7+ Kf7 27.Nxd5 1-0 Schlosser,M-Kwatschewsky,L/AUT-ch 1989/ (34) 1-0 Schlosser,M-Kwatschewsky,L/AUT-ch 1989/EXT 97 (34);

B2b3112422) 21...fxe5 22.Rxc6! *(22.Rxe5 Bf6)* 22...Qxc6 23.Nxe5→ with a strong attack;

B2b311243) 20.Qxb5! '!' Probably this capture is sufficient for getting advantage: 20...Nxe5 21.Qxd7 Nxd7 22.Nxe7+ Rxe7 and now both 23.♗:g6 and 23.♗b3 promise better play: 23.Bxg6 *(23.Bb3 Be4 24.Nd4 Nxd4 25.cxd4± ½-½ Horvath,C-Kuczynski,R/Dresden 1988/ (41) Re6± Horvath,C- Kuczynski,R, Dresden 1988.)* 23...hxg6 24.Nd4!↑ '=' Rodriguez,A-Marin,M/Novi Sad(ol)/1990/1:0 (73) Ree8± 1-0 Rodriguez,A-Marin,M/Novi Sad 1990/TD (73) *(24...Nxd4? 25.Rxe7 ⧋Kf8? 26.Rxd7+-)* 25.Nc6 Nd4 26.Ne7+ Kf8 27.cxd4 Rxe7 28.Bf4 Rxe1+ 29.Rxe1 c6 30.Rc1± 1-0 (73) Rodriguez Cespedes,A (2515)-Marin, M (2485) Novi Sad 1990;

B2b312) 16...Nxb4!? '!?' 17.cxb4 Bxb4 18.Rf1 Bc3 19.Rb1 d4 20.Ba3 d3 21.Rb3 Bg4 22.Nxg7+! '!' Nxg7 23.Bb1 Bd4 24.Rxd3 Ne6 25.Qe1 Bxf3 26.Rxf3 c5 27.Kh1 b4 28.Bc1± Ivanchuk,V-Chekhov,V, Frunze 1988. 1-0 (36) Ivanchuk,V (2625)-Chekhov,V (2480) Frunze 1988;

B2b313) 16...d4?! Mikhalevski,V: 'was also tried once,but looks a bit dangerous:' 17.Be4!

B2b3131) 17...d3? 18.Re3 Bxf3 *(18...Nxe5 19.Nxe5 Bxd1 20.Nxd7 Kxd7 21.Rxd3+ Ke8 22.Nxg7+ Nxg7 23.Bh6+-)* 19.Bxf3±;

B2b3132) 17...g6!? 18.Nh6!±;

B2b3133) 17...Bg6 18.g4 '!' h5 19.h3 Kf8 20.a4 '!' hxg4 21.hxg4 Qe8 22.axb5 axb5 *(22...dxc3 23.Bxc6+-)* 23.Ra6± (44) 'Hjartarsson,J- Kortchnoi,V, Saint John (m/1) 1988.' Ruy

Lopez Open Variation-11.Bc2 Be7 12.Re1 Qd7 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik] 1-0 (44) Hjartarson,J (2590)-Kortschnoj,V (2640) Saint John 1988;

B2b32) 16.Nxd5 Qxd5 17.Qxd5 Rxd5 18.Be4 Nxb4 19.cxb4 Bxf3 20.Bxf3 Bxb4 21.Bxd5 Bxe1 22.Bc6+ Ke7 23.Ba3+ b4 24.Rxe1 bxa3 25.Re3 ½ (40) Veingold,A (2435)-Tal,M (2565) Tallinn 1985 Rb8∓;

B2b33) 16.g4 On the one hand this move weakens white's king position, on the other hand white will not be bothered anymore by annoying pin along the h5-d1 diagonal and will get f5 stronghold for his pieces. 16...Bg6 17.Nf5

B2b331) 17...0-0 18.a4 '±' and now Black could play quite

B2b3311) 18...Rfe8 '!?' 19.axb5 axb5 20.Bd3 The ♙b5 is a target for white's pieces. Rb8 21.Qe2 Ncd8 *(21...Ned8 22.Ra6 h5 23.e6 Qxe6 24.Qxe6 fxe6 25.Nxe7+ Nxe7 26.Bxg6 Nxg6 27.gxh5±* 1-0 (74) Ye,J (2682)-Sasikiran,K (2663) Shenyang 1999 *)*

B2b33111) Marin,M: A strong novelty over the normal 22.Ra7 d4! '!' Marin,M. 23.N3xd4 *(23.cxd4 Bxb4 24.Rd1 Qc6 25.Be3 Bc3 26.h3 Qd5 27.Bg5 Nxg5 28.Nxg5 Ne6 29.Nxe6 fxe6 30.Rxc7 Bxf5 31.gxf5 Qxd4 32.f6+-* 1-0 (32) Shabalov,A (2590)-Vucic,M (2425) New York 1993*)* 23...Bxf5 24.gxf5 Nxd4 25.cxd4 Qxd4 26.Rxc7 Bxb4 27.Bb2 Qf4⇄ ½-½ Zarnicki,P-Sorin,A/Pena City 1996/ (47) 28.Bc3 Bxc3 29.Rxc3± ½ (47) Zarnicki,P (2540)-Sorin,A (2485) Pena City 1996;

B2b33112) 22.Ra5!N This strong move was introduced by Khalifman.

B2b331121) 22...d4? 23.Rd1! c6 *(23...dxc3 24.Bxb5+-)* 24.N3xd4

B2b3311211) Initially I thought that black has good comepensation after 24...Nxd4 25.Nxd4 Bd6 *(25...Bxb4 26.cxb4 Qxd4 27.Bxg6)* but then I discovered that with 26.Bf5!± white gets the upper hand. *(26.f4 Bxb4!; 26.Bf4 Bxe5 27.Bxe5 Rxe5 28.Qxe5 Qxg4+=; 26.Bxg6 hxg6 27.f4 f6⇄)*;

B2b3311212) 24...Bg5 25.Nxe6 Nxe6 26.Bc4 Qc7 27.Bxe6 Bxc1 28.Rd7 Qb6 29.Bxf7+! *(* An elegant way to finish the game, taking advantage of the poor coordination of the black pieces. Black would have had some chances after *29.Bb3 c5 30.Ne7+ Rxe7 31.Rxe7 c4)* 29...Bxf7 30.Raa7+- 1-0 Khalifman,A (2667)-Marin,M (2557)/Istanbul 2000/ (32) 1-0 (32) Khalifman,A (2667)-

Marin,M (2557) Istanbul 2000;

B2b331122) Marin,M: But now, this move is bad. 22...c6□ 23.Be3 *(23.Rd1 Nc7)* 23...Bf8 *(23...Nc7 24.Rea1 Nde6 25.R1a3 Ra8 26.Qa2±)* 24.h3 *(24.Rea1 Nc7 25.h3 Nde6 26.Qa2 c5⇄* ½-½ Costantini,R-Naumkin,I/Estensi 2001/CBM 82 ext (39)*)* 24...Qc7?! This move is not to the point. *(*Possible is *24...Nc7* **Δ** Nde6 and c6-c5 like in the above-mentioned game Costantini-Naumkin. *25.Ra7 Nde6 26.Rea1 c5 27.bxc5± ½-½* (27) Palac,M (2584)-Naumkin,I (2430) Porto San Giorgio 2006*)* 25.Rea1 Rb7 *(25...f6 26.exf6 Nf4 27.Bxf4 Qxf4 28.Ne7+! Bxe7 29.Bxg6 hxg6 30.fxe7+-)* 26.Ra8 f6?! Black is not patient and trying to get active counterplay at any price, but this move actually plays in white's hands. *(* Better was to admit the mistake made on 24th move: *26...Qd7* with the idea Ne6-c7 and Nd8-e6 or c6-c5 somewhere.*)* 27.exf6 Nf4 28.Qd2 Nde6? After this move black's position collapses. *(* The least of the evils for black was *28...Nxd3 29.Qxd3 gxf6 30.N3h4±)* 29.Ne7+! Bxe7 30.Bxg6 1-0 Cheparinov,I (2555)-Erdogdu, M (2369)/Antalya 2004/ (37);

B2b3312) 18...d4 leads to unclear position 19.axb5 axb5 20.Be4 Rfe8

B2b33121) 21.Qd3± Nb8 22.Bd2 *(22.N3xd4?! Nxd4 23.Qxd4 Bxf5 24.Bxf5 Qxd4 25.cxd4 Rxd4∓)* 22...c5 23.cxd4 Nxd4 24.N3xd4 Bxf5 25.Nxf5 Qxd3 26.Bxd3 Rxd3 27.Nxe7+ Rxe7 28.Ra8 Re8 29.Bf4 ½-½ Haba,P (2485)-Marin,M (2515)/Budapest 1993/ (31) ' ±' Rd4 30.Bg3 Kf8 31.bxc5 ½-½ (31) Haba,P (2485)-Marin,M (2515) Budapest 1993;

B2b33122) 21.Be3 Bf8 22.Qd2 h5 23.h3 Nxb4!= Palkovi,J-Marin,M/Stara Zagora(zt)/0,5 (33)/ '=!' Palkovi,J-Marin,M/Stara Zagora(zt)/0,5 (33)/;

B2b332) 17...h6 18.a4 0-0 19.axb5 axb5 20.Bd3 Rb8 21.Ra6 Rfe8 22.Qe2 Ncd8 23.Be3± ½ (49) Timofeev,A (2663)-Jussupow, A (2599) Moscow 2007 c6 24.h4± ½ (49) Timofeev,A (2663)-Jussupow,A (2599) Moscow 2007;

C) 13...d4!? 14.h3 *(14.cxd4? Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nxd4 16.Qd1 Nxc2 17.Qxc2 Qd3∓)* 14...d3!? *(14...Bh5)* 15.hxg4 dxc2 16.Qxd7+ *(16.Qxc2 Qxg4 17.Ng3 Qg6= 18.Qe2 Be7 19.Be3 Nd3 20.Red1 0-0 21.Bd4 Nf4 22.Qe3 Ne6 23.Qe4 Qxe4 24.Nxe4 Rd5∓* 0-1 (45) Romanishin,O (2570)-Tukmakov,V (2570) Tallinn 1988*)* 16...Rxd7 17.Ne3 *(17.Re2? Rd1 18.Rxc2 Nd3∓)* 17...Nd3 18.Re2 Bc5

C1) 19.Rxc2? Ncxe5 20.Nxe5 Nxe5∓;

C2) 19.Nxc2
C2a) 19...Nxf2!? 20.Rxf2 Rd1+ 21.Nfe1 *(21.Nce1? Nxe5! 22.Kf1□ Bxf2 23.Kxf2 Nxg4+ 24.Ke2 Rd5∓)* 21...Bxf2+ *(21...Nxe5 22.Be3! Rxa1 23.Bxc5 Rxa2 24.Re2 f6 25.Nb4 Ra1 26.Nc6±)* 22.Kxf2 Nxe5 23.Ne3 Rd7 24.a4 0-0∞;
C2b) 19...0-0⩲ x♙e5;
C3) 19.e6?! fxe6 20.Nxc2 0-0 Ftacnik,L: '=' Ftacnik,L: '0-1 Ye Jiangchuan (2540)-Hjartarson,J (2565)/Yerevan 1996/ (37)' 21.Be3?! *(21.b4 Bb6 22.Be3=)* 21...Bxe3
C3a) 22.Nxe3 Nf4! 23.Rc2 *(23.Rd2? Rxd2 24.Nxd2 Nd3∓)* 23...Rfd8∓;
C3b) 22.Rxe3 Nxb2 23.Rxe6 Rd6 24.Rae1 *(24.Rxd6 cxd6 25.Re1 Nc4 26.Ncd4=)* 24...Na4 25.R6e3 *(⌓25.Nb4 Rxe6 26.Rxe6 Nd8=)* 25...g6= 0-1 (37) Ye,J (2540)-Hjartarson,J (2565) Yerevan 1996]

13...Ne6 14.Nf1
[14.Nb3!?]
14...Bh5
[14...Be7 15.Ng3 d4⊙ 16.Be4 dxc3 17.Qxd7+ Kxd7↑]
15.a3?!
[15.Ng3!? Bg6 16.Nf5 Be7∞]
15...Bg6 16.Ra2 a5!⇄ 17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.Qe2 Ra8 19.Qxb5?!
[19.Ng3!? Be7 20.Be3⇄]
19...axb4 20.cxb4 Bxb4 21.Rd1 Bc5∓ 0-1 Topalov,V (2750)-Torre,E (2535)/ Yerevan 1996/ (55)

[81] **13.Ne4** Ne6!?
[13...dxc3!? 14.Nxc3 *(14.Qxd7+ Nxd7 15.Nxc3 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Nd4 17.Be4 0-0-0)* 14...Rd8!]
13.h3 d3 14.hxg4 dxc2 15.Qxc2 Qxg4 16.b4 Ne6 17.Re4 Qh5 18.a4 Rd8 19.axb5 axb5 20.Nf1 Be7 21.Qe2 Qg6 22.N3d2± 1-0 (73) Landa,K (2621)-Smeets,J (2392) Fuerth 2002

[82] **13...d3?** doesn't work in view of 14.Nxc5 dxc2
[14...Bxc5 15.Qxd3]
15.Qxd7+ Bxd7 16.Nxd7 Kxd7 17.Bf4! and White wins a pawn.

[83] **14...Nxd7?** 15.Be4!
14...Kxd7 doesn't look to good either.
15.bxc3 Nd8 Knight on c6 doesn't work and Vishy brings it into play.The only drawback of this plan is the fact it's a little bit slow.Leko tries to make use of it by fast reaction:
[After 15...Na4 16.Nbd4! should be taken in consideration as Nxc3 is very dangerous in view of *(⌓16...Nxd4 17.cxd4±)* 17.e6! fxe6 18.Nxc6 Bxc6

19.Rxe6+ Kd7 20.Bf5 and Black is in a big danger.]
16.Ng5 h6
[After careless 16...Nde6? White simply takes a pawn and says thanks as Black has no compensation for it. 17.Nxh7! Be7 *(17...Nxb3 18.axb3 Be7 19.Rd1!* and knight on h7 fills not too badly.*)* 18.Nxc5 Bxc5 *(18...Nxc5 19.Nf6+!)* 19.Ng5]
17.Ne4
[For the lovers of special effects 17.Nh7 can be proposed.The problem is that it has no way back. Nxb3 *(17...Be7? 18.Nf6+!)* 18.axb3 Bc5 19.b4 Bb6 20.Be3∞]
17...Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Bc6 The best way to make use of the development advantage is opening the position. 19.a4! The best way to make use of the development advantage is opening the position. Ceratainly it doesn't match to Anand.So
19...b4 20.Bd2 Bxe4
[20...bxc3 21.Bxc3 Bxe4 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 Bg4 11.Bc2 Survey 2006 Lexikon06 [Ftacnik,L]]
21.Rxe4 bxc3 22.Bxc3 leads to the same. 22...Rb8 23.Nd2 Now Black's plan is to keep the position by ♘e6,h5 and g6,but he has no time for it. 23...Ne6 24.f4!
g6
[After 24...Bc5+ 25.Kf1 the c5 square is occupied and knight has to look for another parking place.]
25.g4 h5 26.f5 Nc5 27.Rc4 ½ (44) Leko,P (2694)-Anand,V (2781) Linares 1999 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 Bg4 11.Bc2 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[84] **12.h3** Bh5 13.Re1
[13.g4 Bg6 14.Nb3 Qd7 15.Nbd4 Bxc2 16.Qxc2 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 h5!? 18.f3 Ne6 19.Kg2 c5 20.Nxe6 Qxe6∓ 0-1 Ioseliani,N (2435)-Hort,V (2535)/Monte Carlo 1994/ (39)]
[13.Qe1 Ne6 14.Nh2 Bg6 15.Bxg6 fxg6 16.Nb3 *(16.Ndf3 0-0 17.Be3 Rf5 18.g4 Rf7 19.Qd2 Qd7 20.Rad1 Raf8 21.Qxd5 Qxd5 22.Rxd5 Rxf3 23.Nxf3 Rxf3∓* 0-1 (51) Lobzhanidze,D (2485)-Korneev,O (2560) Minsk 1998*)* 16...g5∞ Aljechin,A-Rubinstein,A/Vilnius/1912]
13...0-0
[13...Qd7
A) 14.Nb3 Ne6
A1) 15.Bf5
A1a) 15...Ncd8 16.Be3
A1a1) 16...a5
A1a11) 17.Nc5
A1a111) 17...Bxc5 18.Bxc5 Bg6 *(18...g6 19.Bxe6 Nxe6 20.Be3 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 c5 22.Rad1 Rd8 23.Bh6 d4 24.Qf6 Rg8 25.cxd4 cxd4 26.Bd2 b4 27.a3 bxa3 28.bxa3 Qa7 29.Rb1±)* 19.Bg4 h5 20.Bxe6 Nxe6 21.Be3 c5 22.Nh4 d4 23.Nxg6 fxg6 24.cxd4

cxd4 25.Qf3 Rc8 26.Bd2 Qf7⇄ Zarnicki,P-Sorokin,M/Villa Gesell (06)/ 1996 (44);

A1a112) 17...Qc6 18.Nd3 Bxf3! 19.Qxf3 g6 20.Bg4 *(20.Bxe6 fxe6!?∞)* 20...h5 21.Bxe6 Nxe6 22.Rad1± Ehlvest,J-Hjartarson,J/ Belfort 45/386 1988 (41);

A1a12) 17.Qe2!? a4 18.Nbd4 Rb8 19.Bd3 c6 20.Nf5 Bg6 21.Rad1 0-0 22.g4 Re8 23.Nxe7+ Qxe7 24.Bf5 Nc5 25.Bxc5 Qxc5 26.a3 Ne6 27.Nd4 Nxd4 28.Rxd4 Qe7∓ 0-1 Mrdja,M (2425)-Naumkin,I (2489)/Porto San Giorgio 1999/ (43);

A1a13) 17.Bc5 a4 18.Bxe7 Qxe7=

A1a131) 19.Nbd4

A1a1311) 19...Nxd4 20.cxd4 Ne6 21.g4!± *(21.Rc1 Bxf3 22.Qxf3 Nxd4 23.Qxd5 Rd8 24.Qe4 Nxf5 25.Qxf5 0-0 26.e6 fxe6 27.Qxb5 Rd2 28.Re2 Qd6 29.Rce1 Rxe2 30.Qxe2 Rf6 31.Qe4±)* 21...Bg6 22.Rc1 0-0 23.Qd2 1-0 Hamarat,T-Palmo,P/ ICCF corr 1989/Corr Nr. 1 (35);

A1a1312) 19...c6 20.Qc2 *(20.Qd3 Bg6 21.Rad1 0-0 22.Qe2 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Bxf5 24.Nxf5 Qc7 25.Qg4 Ne6 26.h4 Kh8 27.Rd3 g6 28.Nd6 Nc5 29.Rh3 f5 ½-½* De Groot,A (2427)-Larsson,M (2358)/ICCF Email 2000/Corr 2002 (46)*)* 20...Bxf3 21.Nxf3 g6 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Nh2 0-0 24.Ng4± Astrom,G-Wedberg,T/Rilton Cup (05) ,EXT 90op 1990 (57);

A1a132) 19.Nbd2 c6 20.b4 Ng5 21.Qe2 g6 22.Bg4 Bxg4 23.hxg4 Nde6 24.Qe3 h5 0-1 Karpov,A (2725)-Kortschnoj,V (2665)/Baguio City 1978/ (61) Hansen,Cu,Ftacnik: '⇄' '⇄' Hansen, Cu,Ftacnik: 'Karpov,An-Kortchnoi,V/Wch29-Baguio City ,MAINB 1978 (61)';

A1a2) 16...Nb7 ' 17.g4 *(17.Qe2 c5 18.Rad1 Rd8 19.Nbd2 Qc6 20.g4 Bg6 21.Nf1 0-0 22.Ng3±* Sigurjonsson,G-Stean,M/Munich 28/ 276 1979 (42)*; 17.a4!? bxa4?! 18.Nbd4 Nbc5 19.g4! Bg6 20.Nxe6 Nxe6 21.Qxa4±* Timmerman,GJ-Van Buuren,G/cr Holland ch (10) 1982 (42) *)* 17...Bg6 18.Nfd4 c5 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Bxg6+ hxg6⇄ 21.Qd3 0-0-0 22.Qxg6 Qc6 23.Nd2 Rxh3 24.Kg2 d4+ 25.Ne4 Rdh8 26.cxd4 ½-½ (26) Zarnicki,P (2545)-Slipak,S (2535) Buenos Aires 1996 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-14.Nb3 Ne6 15.Bf5 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Hansen,Cu,Ftacnik];

A1a3) 16...0-0 17.Qe2 *(17.Nc5 Qc6 18.Nd3 Bg6 19.Bxg6 hxg6 20.Nd4 Qd7 21.b4 Rc8 22.Nb3 ½-½* Dimitrov,V-Sorin,A/Olot op (07) , TD 92\09 1992*)* 17...a5 18.Rad1 Bg6 19.g4 a4 20.Nbd4 c6= Popovic,P-Marin,M/Manila(izt)/1990/0,5 (25)/ 21.Qc2? *(21.Qd3±)* 21...c5 22.Ne2 Qb7 23.Kg2 Nc6 24.h4 Rad8 25.h5 ½-½ Popovic,P (2520)-Marin,M (2485)/Manila 1990/;

A1b) 15...Bg6 16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Nbd4 Ncxd4 18.Nxd4 0-0 19.Qg4 c5

20.Nxe6 Qxe6 21.Be3 Rfd8 22.Rad1 Rd7= ½ (31) Sadikhov,U (2500)-Iskandarov,M (2504) Konya 2019;

A2) 15.g4 Bg6 16.Bf5

A2a) 16...0-0 17.Be3 Rad8 *(17...Rfd8 18.Qc2 Qe8 19.Rad1 Bf8 20.Kg2 Kh8 21.h4 h5 22.Ng5 hxg4 23.h5 Bxf5 24.Qxf5 Nxg5 25.Bxg5±* 0-1 (30) De Firmian,N (2475)-Agzamov,G (2535) Stara Pazova 1983 *)* 18.Qe2 a5 19.Rad1 Rfe8 20.Kg2 a4 21.Nc1 Na5 22.Nd3 Nc4 23.b3 Nxe3+ 24.Qxe3= ½- (34) ½ (34) Bologan,V (2585)-Kotronias,V (2560) Debrecen 1992 axb3 25.axb3 c5= ½-½ Bologan,V-Kotronias,V/ Debrecen 1992/EU-chT (34);

A2b) 16...Ncd8 17.Be3 *(17.a4 bxa4 18.Nbd4 c5 19.Ne2 0-0 20.Ng3 Qc6 21.Rxa4 c4 22.Ra2 Nc5=* 0-1 Sameeh,H (2313)-Marin,M (2601)/ Cairo 2001/ (45) *)* 17...a5

A2b1) 18.Qe2 a4 19.Nbd4 Rb8 20.Rad1 *(20.Nxe6 Nxe6 21.Nd4 c5 22.Nc2 0-0∓* 0-1 Zielinski,M-Haba,P/Cappelle 1989/ (32)*)* 20...c5 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Bxg6+ hxg6 23.Kg2± Hawley,MH-De Boer,R/cr 19 world ch sf 7 1991/93/1991 (49) Hawley,MH-De Boer,R/cr 19 world ch sf 7 1991/ (49) 0-0 24.h4 Nc6 25.Rh1 Qc7 26.Bc1 Rf7 27.Rh3 Rbf8 28.Rf1 b4 29.cxb4 cxb4 30.h5 gxh5∓ ½-½ Hawley,M-De Boer,R/ICCF corr 1990/Corr Nr. 1 (49);

A2b2) 18.Qc2 a4 19.Nbd4 c5 20.Nxe6 Nxe6 21.h4 Qc6 22.Bg5 d4∓ ½ (39) Bernadskiy,V (2593)-Marin,M (2496) Lorca 2019 23.Re4 h5 24.Bxg6 fxg6 25.Bxe7 Kxe7∓ ½ (39) Bernadskiy,V (2593)-Marin,M (2496) Lorca 2019;

B) 14.Nf1

B1) 14...Rd8 15.g4 *(15.Ng3 Bg6 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Ne6 18.Nf5 c5 19.Be3 Qa7 20.Rc1 Bxf5 21.Bxf5 cxd4 22.Bd2±* 0-1 (38) De Firmian,N (2475)-Agzamov,G (2535) Vrsac 1983*)* 15...Bg6 16.Ng3 Ne6 17.Nf5 0-0 18.Be3 Rfe8 19.a4 Bc5∞ Brodskij,M-Marin/Bucuresti/1994/-/33 20.axb5 axb5 21.Bxc5 *(21.N5d4 Bxd4 22.cxd4 Be4 23.Ng5 Ncxd4 24.Nxe4 dxe4 25.Bxe4* ½ (33) Brodsky,M (2500)-Marin,M (2530) Bucharest 1994 *c5∓)* 21...Nxc5 22.b4 Ne6 23.Qd2± 1-0 (54) Balogh,C (2644)-Iordachescu,V (2582) Legnica 2013;

B2) 14...Bg6 15.Ne3 Rd8 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Ne6 19.Nf5 0-0 20.Be3 c5 21.Rad1 cxd4 22.Bxd4± ½ (77) Mekhitarian,K (2545)-Petrosyan,M (2569) Chess.com INT 2018]

14.Nf1

[14.Nb3 Ne4 15.Bf4 *(15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qxd8 Raxd8 17.Nfd4 Nxe5 18.Rxe4 Bd6 19.f4 Nc4 20.g4 c5 21.gxh5 cxd4 22.Rxd4 Bc7⩲)* 15...Bg6=]

14...f6

[14...Qd7 15.Bf4 Rad8 16.g4 Bg6 17.Ng3 Ne6 18.Bd2 d4 19.Bf5 Qd5 20.Qe2 Rfe8 21.h4 dxc3 22.bxc3 Bxh4∓ 0-1 (42) Lagno,K (2500)-Jussupow,A (2605) Pulvermuehle 2006]

15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Ng3 Bg6 17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.Qc2 Ne7 19.Bf4 Qd7 20.Ne5 Bxe5 21.Bxe5 Rae8 22.Nf1 Ne4 23.f3 Ng5 24.Qd2± ½ (54) Leko,P (2630)-Kortschnoj,V (2635) Groningen 1996

12.Qe1 unpinning the ♘f3. 12...0-0 The main alternative is 12. - ♘e6.

[12...Ne6 13.Qe2 Qd7 14.Re1 Nf4 15.Qe3 Ng6 16.h3 Bf5 17.Bxf5 Qxf5 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 0-0 20.Nf3 Rac8 21.Qb3 c5 22.dxc5 Bxc5= 1-0 (51) Anand,V (2756)-Santos Latasa,J (2675) Leon 2022]

13.Nd4 Nxe5 Safer is 13. - ♘xd4 14.cxd4 ♘e6 with just a small advantage for White after 15.♘b3. 14.h3

[14.Qxe5 Bd6 15.Qe3 Re8 16.Nc6 Bxh2+ 17.Kxh2 Qh4+ 18.Kg1 Rxe3 19.fxe3± (Akopjan)]

14...Ned3

[14...Bd6 15.hxg4 Re8 16.f4+-]

15.Bxd3 Nxd3 16.Qe3 Nxc1 17.hxg4 Bg5 18.f4 c5 19.Nc6! Re8 20.Nxd8 Rxe3 21.fxg5 Nd3 22.Nxf7+- 1-0 Akopian,V (2555)-Todorovic,G (2490)/Niksic 1991/ (45)

12.Qe2 Qd7 13.Re1 0-0 14.Nb3 Ne6 15.h3 Bh5 16.g4 Bg6 17.Bf5 Ncd8 18.Be3!? Hansen,Cu,Ftacnik: '!?' 18...Nb7?! Hansen,Cu,Ftacnik: '?!'

[18...a5 ⌓ Marin,M]

19.h4

[19.Nbd4! c5 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Bxg6 hxg6 22.Rad1 Na5 23.h4 Nc4 24.Bc1 Qc6 25.Rd3!± Dimitrov,V-Marin,M/FRA 52/(337) 1991 (29) *(25.Ng5 Bxg5! Δ d4, ♘b6 ×d5; 25.Bg5 Bxg5 Δ ♖f4)*]

[19.Rad1 c5⇄ 20.Nbd2 c4 21.Ne4 Qc6 22.Ng3± 1-0 Renet,O-Kharitonov,A/Royan 1988/ (43) 1-0 Renet,O-Kharitonov,A/Royan 1988/CBM 09 (43)]

19...c5 20.h5 Bxf5 21.gxf5 Nc7 22.Qc2 f6 23.exf6 Bd6∓ 0-1 (37) Gruenfeld,Y (2475)-Kortschnoj,V (2630) Brussels 1985

[85] **12...d4** 13.h3

[13.Nb3

A) 13...dxc3 14.Nxc5 Bxc5 15.Be4 Qxd1 16.Rxd1 Bd7 17.bxc3 *(17.Ng5 Rb8 18.e6 fxe6 19.Bxh7 Ne5 20.bxc3 Rf8 21.Ne4 Ba7 22.Ba3 Rh8 23.Ng5 a5 24.Rab1±* 1-0 (45) Benjamin,J (2577)-Schneider,D (2487) ICC INT 2008 *)* 17...0-0-0 18.a4 *(18.Bg5 Ne7 19.Nd4 h6 20.Be3 Bg4 21.f3 Be6 22.Bf2 Bd5 23.Bd3 Nc6 24.a4 Nxe5 25.Bf5+ Kb7 26.axb5 axb5 27.Nxb5 Bxf2+ 28.Kxf2 c6=* ½ (33) Liberzon,V (2515)-Kortschnoj,V (2695) Buenos Aires 1979 *)* 18...bxa4 19.Bg5 Ne7 20.Rdb1 Rdf8 21.Bb7+ Kd8 22.Bxa6 Bb6 23.Bb5 Bxb5 24.Rxb5 h6 25.Rd1+ Ke8 26.Bc1+- 1-0 (121) Stellwagen,D (2533)-Sokolov,I (2691) Amsterdam 2005;

B) 13...d3 14.Bb1 Nxb3 15.axb3 Bf5 16.Be3

B1) 16...Qd5 17.Bd4 ⌓0-0 *(17...Be4?! 18.Bxd3 Bxd3 19.Qxd3 Qxb3 20.e6! 0-0 21.Bxg7! Kxg7 22.Nd2 Qxb2 23.Reb1+-* 1-0 Sanakojev-Oim/cr 1981 (35) *)* 18.Bxd3 *(18.Re3 Rad8 19.Bxd3 Nxd4 20.cxd4 Bg4 21.Be4 Qe6 22.Qc2 Bxf3 23.Bxh7+ Kh8 24.Rxf3± ½* (78) Geller,E (2515)-Anand,V

(2505) New Delhi 1987) 18...Bxd3 19.Qxd3 Qxb3 20.e6 fxe6 21.Qe4 Qd5 22.Qxe6+ Qxe6 23.Rxe6 Bd6= 0-1 Mrva,M-Sorin,A/Moscow olm (13) /1994/ (49);

B2) 16...0-0 17.Bd4!? *(17.Nd4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Bb4 19.Rf1 c5=)* 17...Nxd4? *(⌓17...Qd5)* 18.Nxd4 Bg6 19.Bxd3! Bxd3 20.Nc6□ The move that refutes Blacks 17. - ♘xd4. Qd7 21.Nxe7+ Kh8 22.Re3 Rfd8 23.Nc6 Qxc6 24.Rxd3 Rxd3 25.Qxd3± 1-0 Tseshkovsky,V (2540)-Hartman, C (2370)/Copenhagen 1996/ (42)]

13...Bh5 14.Ne4? White is confusing the lines. There is one line where ♘e4 is considered to be the right reaction to d5-d4 in the open - but it s not this one!

[14.Nb3 d3 15.Bb1 Nxb3 16.axb3 Bg6 17.Be3 0-0 18.Bd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Bb4 20.Re3 c5 21.Bxd3 cxd4 22.Re2 Good for White according to the old theory. Bh5!? 23.g4 Bg6 24.Bxg6 fxg6 25.Re4 *(25.Nxd4!?)* 25...Bc5 26.Qd3 Ra7 27.b4 Raf7⇄ ½-½ Dimitrov,V-Delchev,A/Elenite-B (01)/1994/ (43)]

14...d3!

[14...Bxf3? 15.Qxf3 Nxe5 16.Qg3+-]

[14...Nxe5? 15.Nxc5]

15.Nxc5

[15.Bb1 Nxe4 16.Rxe4 Bg6 17.Re1 0-0∓]

15...dxc2 16.Qxd8+ Rxd8

[16...Nxd8]

17.Nb3

[17.Nxa6 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Rd1 19.Bf4 Rxa1 20.Rxa1 Kd7∓]

17...Bxf3 18.gxf3 a5 19.a4 Rd1 20.Be3 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Nxe5 22.Nd4 c5 23.Nxb5 Nxf3+ 24.Kf1 Nxe1 25.Kxe1-+ 0-1 Borge,N (2455)-Hartman,C (2370)/ Copenhagen 1996/ (41)

12...0-0 13.Nf1 '?!' Postny: 'is a different plan in this position. The choice between 13.Nb3 and 13. Nf1 is a matter of taste.'

[13.b4 Ne6 14.Nb3]

[13.Nb3 is another story in this position. This solid approach gives White a slight plus - without complications.

A) 13...Re8

A1) 14.Nxc5 Bxc5

A1a) 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bf4

A1a1) 16...Bf5 17.Qd2 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Qd7 19.h3 *(19.Rad1 Nd8 20.h3 Ne6 21.Bh6 Be7 22.Nh2 Qc6 23.Ng4 d4 24.f4 Qc5 25.Kh1 dxc3 26.bxc3± 1-0 (40) Van den Doel,E (2485)-Haba,P (2570) Cappelle la Grande 1998)* 19...Bf8 20.Rad1 Bg7 21.Qd2 Ne7 22.Ng5 Qc8 23.e6 f6 24.Nf7± 1-0 (33) Brodsky,M (2510)-Haba,P (2515) Swidnica 2000;

A1a2) 16...Qd7 17.Bb3 Rad8 18.Rad1 Qc8 19.h3 Bf5 20.Qd2 Na5 21.Bg5 Rd7 22.Bf6 Nc4 23.Qh6 Bf8 24.Qh4 c5 25.Re2 Bg7 26.Bxg7 ½-½ (26) Luther,T (2520)-Korneev,O (2590) Asti 1997;

A1b) 15.Bf4
A1b1) 15...Bh5 16.Bb3 Ne7 *(16...d4 17.e6!)* 17.e6!±;
A1b2) 15...Qd7 16.h3
A1b21) 16...Bh5?! 17.Bxh7+! Kxh7 18.Ng5+ Kg6 19.Qd3+ Qf5 20.Qg3! Bb6 21.Rac1!! Δe6,♘e6 *(21.e6? f6 22.Nf3+ Kh7 23.Nh4 Qc2-+; 21.Ne6+!? Bg4 22.Nd4! Nxd4 23.hxg4 Qc2 24.cxd4 Kh7±)*
A1b211) Now it's very difficult to find any good answer.For instance 21...a5? 22.e6! *(22.Ne6+!? Bg4 23.Nd4!)* △22...f6 23.Nf3+! Kh7 24.Nh4!+-;
A1b212) 21...f6? 22.Ne6+ Bg4 *(22...Kf7 23.Qxg7+ Kxe6 24.exf6++-)* 23.Nd4 Nxd4 24.hxg4 Δ25cd+-;
A1b22) 16...Bxf3 17.Qxf3± Nd8 18.Rad1 c6 19.h4!? *(19.Be3!? Bxe3 20.Qxe3* Δf2-f4-f5 *)* 19...Ne6 20.Bc1 Rf8 Δf6
A1b221) 21.h5 f5! *(21...f6? 22.Qf5+-)* △22.Bxf5? Rxf5! 23.Qxf5 Rf8∓;
A1b222) 21.Qg4 f5 22.exf6 Rxf6 23.Be3 Raf8 *(23...Bxe3 24.Rxe3 Raf8)* 24.Bxc5 *(24.Rd2!?)* 24...Nxc5 25.Qxd7 Nxd7 26.Rd2± ½ (36) Topalov,V (2745)-Sokolov,I (2635) Antwerp 1997;
A2) 14.Nbd4 Qd7 *(14...Nxd4 15.cxd4 Ne6 16.Be3 Bb4 17.Rf1 c5 18.a3 Ba5 19.dxc5 d4 20.Bd2 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Bxd2 22.Qxd2 Qh4-+* ½ (47) Rivas Pastor,M (2453)-Korneev,O (2619) Malaga 2000*)* 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Bd6 17.Bf5 Nxe5 18.Rxe5 Rxe5 19.Bxd7 Re1# 0-1 Hansen,S-Lyon,P/Hillerod op 1980/MCD-op;
A3) 14.Bf4 Ne6 15.Qd3 g6 16.Qe3 Nxf4 17.Qxf4 Bxf3 ½-½ Skrochocka, J-Barashianth,M/EU-ch U14 Girls, Tallinn 1997;
A4) 14.h3 Nxb3 *(14...Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Bf8 16.Nxc5 Bxc5 17.Bf4 Qd7 18.Rad1 Ne7 19.h4 Qe6 20.h5 c6 21.Bg5 a5 22.Bf6 Ra7 23.Qg3 g6 24.Qg5 Nf5 25.g4 Ne7 26.Kf1+-* 1-0 Milos,G-Garcia,G/Bogota Lat Cup Final 1991/EXT 91*)* 15.Qd3 *(15.axb3 Bh5 16.b4 Qd7 17.Bb3±)* 15...g6 *(15...Bf5!?)* 16.Bxb3 Be6 17.Rd1 Qd7 18.Bxd5 Rad8 19.Be4 Qxd3 20.Rxd3 Rxd3 21.Bxd3 Bd5± ½ (38) Sax,G (2600)-Huebner,R (2615) Budapest 1991;
B) 13...Ne4 14.Bf4 *(14.Bxe4? dxe4 15.Qxd8 Raxd8 16.Rxe4 Rd1+ 17.Ne1 Bf5 18.Re3 Bg5 19.Re2 Bd3∓)*
B1) 14...Re8 Mikhalevski,V 15.Bxe4 *(15.h3 Bh5 16.a4 bxa4 17.Rxa4 Bf8 18.Nbd4 Nxe5 19.Bxe5 Rxe5 20.g4 Qf6 21.Nc6 Rg5 22.Bxe4 dxe4 23.Nxg5 Qxg5 24.Raxe4* 1-0 Kasparov,G-Krasenkow,M/Bled 2002/EXT 2003 (24) *)* 15...dxe4 16.Rxe4 Qxd1+ 17.Rxd1 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Rad8 19.Ree1 g5 20.Bg3 h5 *(20...Kg7 21.e6 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 f5 23.Bxc7±* ½ (51) Kuczynski,R (2525)-Marin,M (2515) Budapest 1993 *)* 21.e6;
B2) 14...f5 Mikhalevski,V 15.exf6 Nxf6 16.Qd3 Ne4? Postny: 'Just a tactical blunder. It's quite strange, that such a mistake happens to GM Sagalchik, who has big experience in Open Variation of Rui Lopez.'

(16...Qd7) 17.Bxc7! Qd7 *(17...Qxc7 18.Qxd5++-)* 18.Ne5! Nxe5 19.Bxe5+- White is a pawn up for nothing. Bh4 20.Bg3 Bxg3 21.hxg3 It's unbelievable, but all this already happened in a classic game Alekhine-Nimzowitsch! Rxf2? 'N?' A novelty and a miscalculation as well which ends the game immediatly. *(21...Bf5 22.Qe2 Bg4 23.Qd3 Bf5 24.Qd4 Rfd8 25.Rad1 Qc7 26.Nd2 Nxf2 27.Bxf5 Nxd1 28.Rxd1 Qxg3 29.Be6+ Kh8 30.Bxd5+-* 1-0 Alekhine,A-Nimzowitsch,A/St Petersburg 1914/ (48)*)* 22.Rxe4 Bf5 23.Kxf2 Bxe4 24.Qd2 1-0 Vescovi,G (2618)-Sagalchik,G (2491)/Buenos Aires 2003/ An instructive example of an opening catastrophe. *(24.Qd2 Qf5+ 25.Kg1 Bxc2 26.Nd4* This is the point. White remains with a piece up. *)*;

B3) 14...Bf5? 15.Nfd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Bg6 17.Nc6 Qd7 18.Qxd5±;

B4) 14...f6 15.exf6 Nxf6 16.Qd3 Qd7

B4a) 17.Ng5

B4a1) 17...g6? 18.Nxh7! Kxh7 19.Qxg6+ Kh8 20.Re3! Bd6 21.Bxd6 cxd6 22.Rg3∞ ½-½ Rodriguez,A-Milos,G/Bogota Lat Cup Final 1991 (43) *(22.h3! Ne5 23.Qh6+ Nh7 24.hxg4 Nxg4 25.Qh3+-)* 22...Ne5 23.Qh6+ Nh7 24.f4 Qa7+ 25.Nd4± ½ (44) Rodriguez Cespedes,A (2530)-Milos,G (2530) Bogota 1991;

B4a2) 17...h6 18.Nh7 Rf7 19.h3? *(19.Nxf6+ Rxf6 20.Qh7+ Kf7 21.Be3 Bf5 22.Bxf5 Qxf5 23.Qxf5 Rxf5±)* 19...Nh5 20.Qg6 *(20.Bh2 Bf5 21.Qe2 Bd6! 22.Bxd6 cxd6 23.Bxf5 Qxf5-+)* 20...Nxf4 21.Qxg4 Qxg4 22.hxg4 g6 23.g3 Nh3+ 24.Kg2 Rxf2+ 25.Kxh3 Kxh7∓ ½-½ Large,P-Flear,G/BCF-ch Eastbourne 1990 (40);

B4b) 17.Ne5!? Nxe5 18.Bxe5 g6 19.Qd4 c6 20.f3 Bf5 21.Bxf5 Qxf5 22.Qb6 Qd7 23.a4± 1-0 (33) Almasi,Z (2595)-Kortschnoj,V (2635) Linz 1997;

C) 13...Qd7 14.Nxc5 Bxc5 15.h3! *(15.Qd3 g6 16.Bg5 Be7 17.Bxe7 Nxe7 18.Qe3±* Erlandsson,CEM- Mooren,L, 1988 CCYB 02.*)* 15...Be6 16.Nd4 Nxd4?! 17.cxd4 Be7 18.Be3 f5 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.Rc1 Rac8 21.Qd3 g6 22.Qd2 c6 23.Bg5± 1-0 (41) Ivanchuk,V (2535)-Haba,P (2475) Debrecen 1988;

D) 13...Nxb3 14.Bxb3 Be6 15.Qd3 Qd7 16.Ng5 g6 17.Qg3± 1-0 Luther,T-Baumegger,S/Moerbisch AUT 2001/ (31);

E) 13...Na4 14.Qd3 g6 15.Nfd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Qd7 17.Qg3 Kg7 18.h3 Be6 19.b3 Nc5 20.Bg5 Bxg5 21.Qxg5 Rfe8 22.f4 Qe7 23.Qg3 Kh8 24.Qf3± 1-0 (47) Vuckovic,B (2556)-Todorovic,G (2479) Zlatibor 2008;

F) 13...Ne6

F1) 14.Nbd4?! Ncxd4 15.cxd4

F1a) 15...c5?! 16.Be3 *(⌓16.dxc5)* 16...c4 17.b3 Rb8 18.Rb1 Qc7∓ 0-1 Spencer,E-Silvanus/Bromley 1920/ (30);

F1b) 15...g6!∓ Postny: 'A good prophylactic move, which greatly restricts white's attacking possibilities on the kingside. On top of that white has a serious problems with ♙d4.'

F1b1) 16.Bh6

F1b11) 16...Bxf3?! 17.Qxf3 *(17.gxf3? Re8∓)* 17...Nxd4 18.Qc3 Nxc2 19.e6! Bf6 20.Qxc2 Re8 21.exf7+ Kxf7 22.Rxe8 Qxe8 *(22...Kxe8 23.Qc6+ Kf7 24.Rd1↑)* 23.Qxc7+∞;

F1b12) 16...Re8! 17.Be3 f5∓ 18.Qd2 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Bf8 Black has an advantage, but less, than after the move in the text.;

F1b2) 16.Re3!? Such an awkward move can be considered, since white's position is inferior in any case. Ng5 17.Rc3∓;

F1b3) 16.Be3?! This seemingly "natural" move helps black to increase his advantage. 16...f5!∓ Using his enormous experience, specifically in this opening variation, Kortschnoj immediatly spots the weak link in white's plan.

F1b31) 17.Bb3 f4 18.Bc1 c6∓;

F1b32) 17.h3 Bxf3 18.gxf3∓ *(18.Qxf3?! f4 19.Qg4 Qc8)*;

F1b33) 17.Qd3?! f4 18.Bd2 c5! After this move, white's position is just collapsing. 19.Bd1 *(19.dxc5 Bf5 20.Qc3 b4-+)* 19...c4 20.Qc3 b4 21.Qc1 Bxf3 22.Bxf3 Nxd4 It's clear, that white has been completely outplayed. It's curious, that this happened in the course of very few moves. 23.Bxf4 Nxf3+ 24.gxf3 Rc8-+ 0-1 Naiditsch,A (2581)-Kortschnoj,V (2626)/Zuerich 2002/ (31) Preparing the advance of the "d" pawn.;

F2) 14.a4 Rb8 15.axb5 axb5 16.Qd3 g6 17.Bh6 Re8 18.Rad1 Bf5 19.Qe2 Bxc2 20.Qxc2 Qd7 21.h3!? 'N!?' *(21.h4!?)* 21...Ncd8 22.Qd2 c6 23.Nh2 f5 24.exf6 Bxf6 25.Ng4 Bh8 26.Re2!? Nf7 27.Rde1 Nd6 28.Bf4 Nxf4 *(28...Nc4 29.Nc5! Nxc5 30.Bxb8+-; 28...Bg7 29.Be5 Nc4 30.Bxg7 Qxg7 31.Qc1±)* 29.Qxf4+- 1-0 (49) Gofshtein,L (2519)-Mikhalevski,V (2524) Tel Aviv 2002;

F3) 14.h3 Bh5 15.Bf5 Bg6 16.Qd3 Qd7= 17.Be3 Rad8 18.Rad1 Bxf5 19.Qxf5 Ng5 *(19...f6 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.Qg4 Rfe8 22.Bc1 Qd6 23.Re2 Re7 24.Rde1 Rde8 25.Nh4 Bxh4 26.Qxh4± ½* (67) Oll,L (2600)-Garcia,G (2485) Zaragoza 1992*)* 20.Nfd4 Nxd4 21.Nxd4 Ne6 22.Qh5 g6 23.Qh6 c5 24.Nf3= ½ (46) Sutovsky,E (2658)-Mikhalevski,V (2520) ICC INT 2002;

F4) 14.Qd3 '!?' 14...g6

F4a) 15.Nfd4 '?!' Ncxd4

F4a1) 16.Nxd4

F4a11) 16...Nxd4 17.cxd4 Bf5 *(17...c5?! 18.Qg3 Qd7 19.dxc5 Bxc5 20.Bg5↑ Rfe8 21.Bf6 Rac8 22.Bb3 Bf5 23.Rad1±* Chandler,M-Wedberg,T/Haninge 1988/1-0 (35) *)* 18.Qd1 Qd7=;

F4a12) 16...Qd7!? 17.Bh6 Rfd8 18.Qg3 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Rac8 20.a4 Bf5 ½-½ Ramesh,R-Mikhalevski,V/Biel 2001/ (20);

F4a2) 16.cxd4 Bf5 17.Qe2 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 a5 19.a4 Qd7 20.Be3 bxa4 21.Nc5 Bxc5 22.dxc5 Qb5 23.Rxa4 Rfb8↑;

F4b) 15.Qe3 Re8 16.Nfd4 Ncxd4 17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.Qxd4 Be6 19.Bh6

Bg5 20.Bxg5 Qxg5 21.a4 c6 22.h4 Qe7 23.Qf4 b4 24.Re3 b3 25.Bd3 h5 26.Rg3 Kg7 27.Rg5 Rg8 28.Re1± Nielsen,P-Ofstad,P/Gausdal Masters 1995/ 1-0 (50);

F4c) 15.Bh6 Re8

F4c1) 16.Nfd4 Ncxd4

F4c11) 17.cxd4 Bf5 18.Qe2 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 a5 20.a4 *(20.Qd3 a4 21.Nd2 a3 22.b3 c5 23.dxc5 Bxc5 24.Nf3 Qb6*= 0-1 (53) Zapata, A (2556)-Korneev,O (2551) Senden 2002*)* 20...Qd7 is similar to the previous note.;

F4c12) 17.Nxd4 Qd7!? 18.Qg3 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Rac8 20.a4 c5 21.dxc5 Rxc5∞;

F4c2) 16.Qe3

F4c21) 16...a5 17.Nfd4 *(17.a4 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 bxa4 19.Nc1 Nc5 20.Nd3 Nxd3 21.Qxd3 Bg5 22.Bxa4 Nxe5 23.Qg3 Nf3+ 24.gxf3 Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Bxh6 26.Re8+ Qxe8 27.Bxe8 Rxe8 28.Qxc7±* 1-0 (47) Delchev,A (2601)-Narciso Dublan,M (2487) Navalmoral 2004 *)* 17...Ncxd4 18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 c5 *(19...Rc8 20.Bd3 Qd7 21.Rac1 c6 22.Qf4 Be6 23.h4 Rc7 24.h5 Rec8 25.Re3±* 1-0 (54) Palac,M (2561)-Jussupow,A (2608) Turin 2006*)* 20.dxc5 Rc8 21.Bd3 Bxc5 22.Qf4 Bd7 23.h4± 1-0 (41) Sutovsky,E (2654)-Svetushkin,D (2587) Subotica 2008;

F4c22) 16...Rc8 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Bf8 19.Bxf8 Rxf8 20.Re3 Ne7 21.Rd1 c5 22.h4 Rc7 23.h5± ½ (71) Corrales Jimenez,F (2586)-Vocaturo,D (2540) Havana 2011;

F4c23) 16...Bf8 17.Nfd4 Ncxd4 18.cxd4 Bb4 19.Qg3 Bxe1 20.Rxe1 Bh5 21.Bf5 Ng7 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.Nc5+- ½ (33) Milos,G (2555)-Garcia,G (2515) Bogota 1992;

F4c3) 16.Rad1 Another common move.

F4c31) After 16...Bf5?! 17.Qd2 Bxc2 18.Qxc2± white has the upper hand. Qd7 19.h4 *(19.Rd3 Rad8 20.h3 Bf8 21.Qd2 Ne7 22.Bxf8 Rxf8 23.Nfd4 Qc8 24.Qe3± ½-½* Geller,E-Unzicker,W/Bad Woerishofen 1991 (45)*; 19.Qd3 Rad8 20.Rd2 Na7 21.Red1 c6 22.h4 Nc8 23.Be3 Qc7 24.Qc2 c5 25.Rxd5 Rxd5 26.Rxd5±* ½ (91) Ziatdinov,R (2450)-Mikhalevski,V (2572) Caerleon 2005 *)* 19...Red8 20.h5 Bf8 21.Qd2 Ng7 22.hxg6 hxg6 23.Bg5↑ 1-0 Emms,J-Rutherford,L/Hastings 1995/ (27);

F4c32) 16...Ng5! 17.Bxg5□ *(*Can anybody fall for *17.Nbd2?? Bf5-+)* 17...Bxg5

F4c321) 18.Qxd5?! Qxd5 19.Rxd5 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Bf4 21.Re4! White also has to try to break blacks pawn structure.

F4c3211) 21...g5 22.h4 h6 23.hxg5 hxg5 24.e6! fxe6 25.Rc5

F4c32111) 25...Nb8?! 26.Rxf4 *(26.Nd4 Nd7)* 26...gxf4 27.Rxc7 a5 28.Nd4 Na6 29.Rc6 Kf7 30.Bb3±;

F4c32112) 25...Nd8 26.Nd4 Kf7 27.a4 *(27.Ne2 Nb7 28.Rc6 Bd6)* 27...bxa4 28.Bxa4 Re7±;

F4c3212) 21...Rxe5! 22.Rd7 *(22.Rdxe5 Bxe5 23.Re3 f5 24.Nc5 Bd6 25.Bb3+ Kh8=)* 22...Rg5+ 23.Kh1 Bd6 24.f4 Rg4 △25.f5? Ne5 26.Rxg4 Nxg4-+;

F4c322) 18.Nbd4! A move which is not hard to find but still this is the only way for white not to lose initiative. 18...Nxd4 19.cxd4± Black has to bishops but white has the better pawn structure.

F4c3221) Keeping an eye on c1 square is not that convincing. That is why I am for first to prepare c5. 19...Bh6 20.h3 *(20.Qc3 a5 21.a4)* 20...Be6 21.Nh2 Bg7 22.Ng4±;

F4c3222) 19...Be7 20.h3 Be6

F4c32221) ⌓21.Nh2! Qd7 *(21...h5?! 22.Nf3 Rc8 23.Qd2 c5 24.dxc5 Bxc5 25.Bb3±; 21...Rc8 22.Ng4 c5 23.dxc5 Rxc5 24.Bb3±)*

F4c322211) 22.Qf3 a5 *(22...Rac8 23.Ng4 c5 24.dxc5 Rxc5 25.Bb3 Bxg4 26.hxg4 Rd8 27.Rd3 Qe6±)* 23.Ng4 Bxg4 24.hxg4 a4 25.Bd3 c5 26.dxc5 Bxc5±;

F4c322212) 22.Qg3 a5 23.Ng4 Bxg4 24.hxg4 a4±;

F4c32222) 21.Qd2?! This is not bad but in my opinion white has some other line with better prospects.

F4c322221) 21...a5 22.Qf4 a4 23.Bd3 Qd7 24.Ng5 *(24.Nh2 Rac8 25.Ng4 Bxg4 26.hxg4 c5 27.dxc5 Rxc5±)* 24...Rac8 25.Qh4 Bxg5 26.Qxg5 c5 27.dxc5 Rxc5 28.b4 axb3 29.axb3 b4⇄;

F4c322222) 21...c5 The natural move without c5 black would have stayed passive. 22.dxc5 Bxc5 23.Bb3! White should not weaken the side. *(23.b4 Bf8 24.Bb3 Qe7!)*

F4c3222221) 23...a5 24.Bxd5 Bb4 25.Qh6 Bf8=;

F4c3222222) 23...Qb6 24.Re2 *(24.Qh6? Bxf2+ 25.Kh1 Bxe1 26.Ng5 Qf2 27.Nxh7 Bd2 28.Rxd2 Qe1+ 29.Kh2 Qxe5+ 30.g3 Qh8-+)* 24...Rad8 25.Qh6 Bf8 26.Qh4 Bg7;

F4c3222223) 23...Ra7!? I wanted to keep ♕d8 in her place cause I was thinking thatthis is the way to control things on the queenside as well. 24.Qh6 Bf8 25.Qf4 Rd7 26.Re2± ½ (46) Fercec,N (2484)-Atalik,S (2581) Cappelle la Grande 2003 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-12. Re1 0-0 13.Nb3 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

13...d4 The thematic push in the open spanish. But the move has not been played much in this exact position. The thematic push in the open spanish. But the move has not been played much in this exact position.

[13...Re8
A) 14.Ne3 Postny: 'Objectively speaking, this line does not yield white any advantage.'
A1) 14...Bxf3 '?!' In my Database I found only one game, where black continued this way. 15.Qxf3 Nxe5 16.Qf5
A1a) 16...Ned3!?
A1a1) The main idea of black's last move, is that after 17.Bxd3 g6 18.Qxd5 Nxd3= black is far from opening problems.;
A1a2) An interesting, but incorrect tactical option is 17.Nxd5?! g6 18.Rxe7 Rxe7 *(18...gxf5? 19.Rxe8+ Qxe8 20.Nf6+ Kg7 21.Nxe8+ Rxe8 22.Be3±)* 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Bg5 Qe2∓;
A1a3) 17.Ng4
A1a31) 17...g6? 18.Nh6+ Kh8 19.Nxf7+ Kg8 *(19...Kg7 20.Bh6+ Kg8 21.Qg4 Qd7 22.Qd4 Bf6 23.Qxf6 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Qxf7 25.Qxf7+ Kxf7 26.Rd1 Nxb2 27.Rxd5±)* 20.Nh6+ Kh8 21.Be3! gxf5 22.Bd4+→;
A1a32) 17...Qc8□ 18.Bxd3 Nxd3 19.Nh6+! gxh6 20.Qxd3 Bd6 21.Bxh6 White regained the pawn and has the initiative. Black's ♔ is not safe. However it is hard to exploit black's ♔ vulnerability, because of lack of attacking pieces. Re6
A1a321) 22.Be3 Qd7 23.Re2 *(23.Qf5? Bxh2+∓)* 23...c6 *(23...Rae8 24.Qf5)* 24.Rae1 Rae8 25.Qf5 f6 with reasonable position.;
A1a322) 22.Bd2 Qd7 23.g3 c6 24.Qf3 Rae8 25.Qg4+ Kh8 26.Kg2± ½ (44) Kotsur,P (2578)-Sorokin,M (2551) Kolkata 2002;
A1b) 16...Ng6 17.Nxd5 Bd6 18.Rxe8+ Qxe8 19.Be3 Ne6 20.Rd1 Rd8 21.g3 c6 22.Nb4 Bxb4 23.Rxd8 Qxd8 24.cxb4 Qd5 25.Qxd5 cxd5 26.f4± Adams,M-Garcia,G/New York op 1995/1-0 (56);
A2) 14...Nxe5
A2a) 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16.Qc2+ Kg8 *(16...Ng6 17.Nxg4± Postny: 'white has slight advantage, due to vulnerable position of black's king.')* 17.Nxe5
A2a1) 17...Be6
A2a11) 18.Nf5?! Bxf5 *(⌓18...Bf8=)* 19.Qxf5 Bf6 20.Bf4± 1-0 Daly,C-Glodeanu,I/Bucharest2 1993 (35);
A2a12) 18.Nc6 Qd6 19.Nxe7+ Rxe7 20.b3 Nd7 21.Bb2?! *(21.a4!±; 21.a4!±)* 21...Rae8 Ftacnik,L: '0-1 Wang Zili-Jussupow,A/ Novi Sad olm 1990/ (36)' 22.Rad1 *(22.a4!?)* 22...c5 23.f3 Ne5!
A2a121) 24.Qd2;
A2a122) 24.Qd2 c4 25.bxc4 *(25.Nxd5? Bxd5 26.Qxd5 Qxd5 27.Rxd5 Nxf3+-+)* 25...bxc4 26.Nc2= Nd3 *(26...Qb6+ 27.Nd4 Nd3 28.Re2)* 27.Ba3 RRQb6+ 28.Qe3 *(28.Nd4?! Nxe1 29.Bxe7 Nxf3+! 30.gxf3 Rxe7)*;
A2a123) 24.Qf2?! c4 25.Qg3 f6 26.Rd4 Qc5 27.bxc4?! *(27.b4*

Qb6 28.Bc1∓) 27...dxc4 28.Nc2? *(28.Bc1; 28.Bc1)* 28...a5!∓ 0-1 Wang Zili-Jussupow,A/Novi Sad olm 1990/ (36);

A2a2) 17...Bh5!?

A2a21) 18.b4? Na4;

A2a22) 18.g4?! Bg6 19.Nxg6 fxg6 20.Qxg6 Bd6 black has excellent compensation for the pawn.;

A2a23) 18.Nc6?! Mikhalevski,V Qd7 19.Qf5?! *(19.Nxe7+ Rxe7∓)* 19...Qxf5 20.Nxf5 Bf6 21.Nfe7+ Kf8 22.Be3 Nd3 23.Nxd5 Nxe1 24.Rxe1 Re6 25.Bc5+ Kg8 26.Rxe6 fxe6 27.Nxc7 Rc8 28.Bb6 *(28.Bd6? Bd8)* 28...Bd8 29.f3 Rxc7 30.Nxd8 Rd7 31.Nxe6 Rd6 32.Nf4 Rxb6! 33.Nxh5 Rd6;

A2a24) 18.Qf5! Bf6

A2a241) 19.Nc6? Postny: 'Kortschnoj evaluates this move as a bad one...' Jetzt behält Schwarz sein Läuferpaar Postny: Black gets a slightly better endgame after Postny: 'Kortschnoj evaluates this move as a bad one...' Jetzt behält Schwarz sein Läuferpaar Postny: Black gets a slightly better endgame after Postny: 'Kortschnoj evaluates this move as a bad one...' Jetzt behält Schwarz sein Läuferpaar Postny: Black gets a slightly better endgame after Ftacnik,L: 'Postny: 'Kortschnoj evaluates this move as a bad one...' Postny: Black gets a slightly better endgame after'

A2a2411) 19...Qd7!? Hansen,Cu 20.Qxh5 Qxc6 21.Rd1

A2a24111) 21...Rad8 Black's pieces are well developed, but his king is slightly vulnerable. The position is approximately equal. 22.Ng4 Ne4?! *(22...Nd3?! 23.Bg5 Bxg5 24.Rxd3 Qg6 25.Qxg6 fxg6 26.Kf1±; 22...g6 23.Nxf6+ Qxf6 24.Qh6 Ne6=* This is the best location for the knight.*)* 23.Be3 g6 24.Nxf6+ Nxf6 *(* Slightly better was to recapture with the queen: *24...Qxf6)* 25.Qf3 White is hoping to make use of the weak dark squares in the opponent's camp. Qe6 *(25...Re6!? 26.Bd4 Rde8)* 26.Qg3 ½-½ Polzin,R (2489)-Holzke,F (2471)/ Germany 2004/ (68);

A2a24112) 21...Re5 22.Qf3 Rae8⇄;

A2a2412) 19...Bg6 '!' Postny. ⧉ 20.Qxg6 fxg6 21.Nxd8 Raxd8∓ ½-½ Leko,P (2600)-Kortschnoj,V (2635)/Ubeda 1997/ (50) ½-½ Leko,P (2600)-Kortschnoj,V (2635)/Ubeda 1997/ (50) ½-½ Leko,P (2600)-Kortschnoj,V (2635)/Ubeda 1997/ (50) Ftacnik,L: '∓';

A2a242) 19.Nf3 Bxf3 20.Qxf3= △Nd3? 21.Rd1 Nxc1 22.Rxd5 Ne2+! 23.Kf1± *(23.Qxe2?? Qxd5; 23.Kh1!?)*;

A2a243) 19.Qxh5 Rxe5 20.Qd1!∞ Kortschnoj' '!' '!';

A2b) 15.Nxg4 '?' 15...Nxg4 16.h3 *(16.Bf4 Ne6 17.Rxe6 fxe6 18.Nd4 Bf6 19.Qxg4 e5 20.Qh5 g6 21.Bxg6 hxg6 22.Qxg6+ Bg7 23.Bg5 Qd6*

24.Qxd6 cxd6 25.Nf5⩱ ½-½ Pfrommer,C-Van der Sterren,P/Biel 1991/ (41) *)* 16...Nf6 17.Nd4 Bf8 18.Bg5 Rxe1+ 19.Qxe1 Qd6 20.Qd1 Nfe4 21.Be3 g6 22.f3 Nf6 23.Qd2∓ Prasad,D-Ramesh,R/Madras zt 1995/ (61) Ruy Lopez Open Variation-12.Re1 0-0 13.Nf1 Re8 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik] Prasad,D-Ramesh,R/Madras zt 1995/ (61) Prasad,D-Ramesh,R/Madras zt 1995/ (61) Ftacnik,L: 'Prasad,D-Ramesh,R/Madras zt 1995/ ½-½ (61)';

B) 14.Ng3 d4 Tal *(14...Bf8 15.b4 Bxf3 16.gxf3 Nxe5 17.Rxe5 Rxe5 18.bxc5 Bxc5 19.Bf4 Re8 20.Qd3 g6± ½-½* Urday,H-Estremera Panos,S/ Osuna 1991/EXT 91op (33) *)*;

C) 14.Bf4

C1) 14...Bh5 15.Ng3 Bg6 16.Nf5 Qd7 17.g4 f6 *(17...Rad8 18.Bg5 Qc8 19.N3d4 Nxd4 20.cxd4 Ne6 21.Nxe7+ Rxe7 22.Bf5 Rde8 23.Rc1 Qb7 24.Qd2 Qb6 ½-½* (24) Cuartas,J (2447)-Korneev,O (2611) Neiva 2005 *)* 18.Qd2 Rad8 19.Rad1 Qc8 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.Rxe8+ Bxe8 22.Qe3 Ne4 23.Rxd5 Rxd5 24.Qxe4 Qd7 25.Ne3 Bf7 26.Qxh7+ Kf8 27.Qh8+ Ke7 28.g5 1-0 (28) Kornev,A (2558)-Chekhov,V (2466) Serpukhov 2003;

C2) 14...Bf8 15.Ne3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nxe5 17.Qg3 *(17.Qxd5 Ned3)* 17...f6 18.Nf5 g6 19.h4 Qd7 20.Rad1 Nf7 21.Rxe8 Rxe8 22.Bxc7 Ne4 23.Bxe4 Rxe4 24.Ne3 d4 25.Nc2 Re2 26.Rxd4 ½-½ (26) Stefansson,H (2545)-Hjartarson,J (2605) Akureyri 1997;

C3) 14...Qd7 15.Ne3 Be6 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4± 0-1 Saltaev,M-Husari,S/ Dubai 1996/EXT 99 (54);

D) 14.b4 Despite a big amount of games in 13...♖e8 line this move wasn't played yet and as the game shows rightly so. Ne4! *(14...Ne6)*

D1) 15.Bxe4? dxe4 16.Qxd8 Bxd8! *(16...Raxd8 17.Rxe4 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Rd3)* 17.Nd4! *(17.Rxe4 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Nxe5∓)* 17...Nxe5∓;

D2) 15.Ng3

D2a) 15...Nxc3? 16.Qd3 g6 *(16...Ne4 17.Nxe4 ⩤Nxb4 18.Nf6+)* 17.Qxc3 Bxb4 18.Qxc6 Bxf3 19.Rf1 Re6 20.Qb7 Rb6 21.Qxb6 cxb6 22.gxf3±;

D2b) 15...Bxf3

D2b1) 16.Qxf3 Nxe5 17.Qf5

D2b11) 17...Bh4 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Rxe4 *(19.Bxe4? g6)* 19...Qf6 20.Qxf6 Bxf6=;

D2b12) 17...Bf6!?

D2b121) 18.Bxe4 g6

D2b1211) 19.Qf4 dxe4 20.Nxe4 Bg7!∓ *(20...Nd3? 21.Qxf6 Nxe1 22.Bh6! Qxf6 23.Nxf6+ Kh8 24.Nxe8 Rxe8 25.Rd1±)*;

D2b1212) 19.Qh3 dxe4 *(19...Nd3!?)* 20.Nxe4 Nd3 21.Bg5 *(21.Qxd3 Qxd3 22.Nxf6+ Kg7 23.Nxe8+ Rxe8 24.Bh6+ Kxh6 25.Rxe8 Qxc3∓)* 21...Bxg5 22.Nxg5 Qxg5 23.Qxd3 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Rd8∓;

D2b122) 18.Nxe4 dxe4

D2b1221) 19.Bxe4 g6 20.Qh3 Nd3 21.Re3 Bxc3 22.Rxd3 *(22.Rb1 Nxc1 23.Rxc1 Bd2! 24.Bxa8 Rxe3 25.fxe3 Bxc1-+)* 22...Bxa1 23.Rxd8 Raxd8∓;

D2b1222) 19.Rxe4 g6 20.Qh3 a5!=;

D2b2) 16.gxf3! Nxc3 *(16...Nxg3 17.hxg3±)* 17.Qd3 g6 18.Qxc3 Bxb4 19.Qxc6

D2b21) 19...Re6?! 20.Qb7 Rb6 *(20...Bxe1 21.Bg5!)* 21.Qxb6±;

D2b22) 19...Bxe1∓;

D2c) 15...Nxe5!

D2c1) 16.Bxe4?! dxe4 17.Qxd8 Bxd8! *(17...Nxf3+?? 18.gxf3)* 18.Nxe5 Rxe5 19.f3 Be6 20.Bf4 Rd5 21.Nxe4 a5∓;

D2c2) 16.Nxe4

D2c21) 16...dxe4? 17.Qxd8 Bxd8 18.Nxe5 Rxe5 19.Bf4! *(19.Bxe4? f5!)* 19...Re6 20.Bxe4 Rb8 21.h3±;

D2c22) 16...Bxf3 17.gxf3 dxe4 18.fxe4?! Despite pair of bishops Black is better as White's king is open,pawns on the queen side are weak and the bishop on c1 is not developed yet. *(⌓18.Bxe4 Qxd1 19.Rxd1 Rad8=* keeping an equality. *)*

D2c221) 18...Bh4!

D2c2211) 19.Be3 Qf6 ⌓20.Rf1 '⌓' Rad8 21.Qh5 g6 22.Qe2 Qf3! 23.Qxf3 Nxf3+ 24.Kg2 Nd2 25.Rfd1 *(25.Rfe1 Bf6!∓)* 25...Nxe4∓;

D2c2212) 19.Rf1 Qf6 20.f4 *(⌓20.Be3)* 20...Rad8 21.Qe2 *(21.Qh5 Nd3)* 21...Nd3!∓;

D2c2213) 19.Qxd8 Raxd8 20.Kg2 *(20.Re2 Bf6!; 20.Re3 Bg5 21.Re2 Bf6)* 20...Nd3! 21.Re2 *(21.Rd1 Nxf2 22.Rxd8 Rxd8∓ △23.Bf4 g5!)* 21...Bf6∓;

D2c222) 18...Bf6

D2c2221) 19.Qh5 is dangerous in view of Nc4 20.Rd1 *(20.e5? g6)* 20...Qe7 △21.e5? g6 22.exf6 Qe1+;

D2c2222) 19.Bf4 Ng6 wins a pawn,but thanks to the bishops of different colors White has good chances to escape. *(19...Qe7!?* trying to use an open position of White's king.*)* 20.Qxd8 *(20.Bd2? Be5* with decisive attack.*)* 20...Raxd8 21.Bxc7 Rc8 *(21...Rd2!?)* 22.e5! Nxe5 *(22...Bxe5? 23.Bxe5 Nxe5 24.Re3)* 23.Bxe5

D2c22221) 23...Bxe5 24.Rac1!

D2c222211) 24...Rxc3 25.Bxh7+ *(25.Rxe5!? Rxe5 26.Bxh7+ Kxh7 27.Rxc3=)* 25...Kf8 *(25...Kxh7? 26.Rxc3 Bxh2+ 27.Kf1!)* 26.Bf5!;

D2c222212) 24...Bxc3 25.Rxe8+ Rxe8 26.Bxh7+ Kxh7 27.Rxc3=;

D2c22222) 23...Rxe5!
D2c222221) 24.Bb3
D2c2222211) 24...Rxc3 25.Rxe5 Bxe5 26.Rd1 *(26.Re1 Bd6 27.Re8+ Bf8 28.Ra8 Rc6∓)* 26...g6 27.Rd7 Rf3∓;
D2c2222212) 24...Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Kf8;
D2c2222213) 24...Kf8!?;
D2c222222) 24.Rxe5 Bxe5 25.Bb3
D2c2222221) 25...Bxc3 26.Rc1= see the game.;
D2c2222222) ↺25...Rxc3 26.Rd1 *(26.Re1!? see 24.♗b3)*;
D2c2222223) 25...g6 26.Rc1!
D2c22222231) 26...Rxc3 27.Rxc3 Bxc3 28.Bd5!= *(28.a3 Bb2 29.a4 bxa4! 30.Bxa4 Bc3 31.b5 a5∓)* 28...Bxb4 29.Bb7 a5 30.Bc6;
D2c22222232) 26...Bxc3 27.a4!∓ ½ (50) Yemelin,V (2510)-Korneev,O (2600) St Petersburg 1998 White changes queen side pawns and approaches to the drawish harbour.;

E) 14.h3 One of the most critical continuations.
E1) 14...Bxf3!? Curieusement ce coup naturel est une nouveauté alors que les Noirs obtiennent assez facilement l'égalité 15.Qxf3 Bf6!= La pointe 16.Bf4 *(16.exf6 Rxe1 17.fxg7 Ne4 18.Rb1 Ne5↑)* 16...Nxe5 17.Bxe5 Bxe5 18.Bxh7+ Kxh7 19.Qh5+ Kg8 20.Rxe5 c6 21.Ng3 Rxe5 22.Qxe5 Qd7 23.Nf5 f6 24.Qe7 Qxf5 25.Qxc5 Qe6 26.a4 bxa4 *(26...Re8 27.axb5 axb5 28.Ra6 Qe1+ 29.Kh2 Qe5+)* 27.Rxa4 Rb8= ½ (30) Smirin,I (2658)-Vocaturo,D (2564) Aix les Bains 2011;
E2) 14...Bh5
E2a) 15.Ng3 Bg6
E2a1) 16.Nf5
E2a11) 16...Bf8 looks most logical. 17.Bf4 *(17.g4!?⇄)*
E2a111) 17...Ne7?! 18.Bg5 Ne4 19.Bxe7 Bxe7 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 *(20...Rxe7 21.Nh4±)* 21.Qxd5 Nxc3 22.Qd2 *(22.Qc6 Bxc2 23.Qxc3* Postny: ' - see the previous comment.' *Bg6 24.Rac1 Rac8 25.Qa5±)*
E2a1111) Safer was 22...Bxc2 23.Qxc2 *(23.Qxc3* - see the previous comment. *)* 23...Nd5;
E2a1112) 22...Na4?! Quite a risky decision. 23.Bxa4 *(*More aggressive would be *23.Bxg6±* Now black has a tough choice - both recaptures have it's own drawbacks. *fxg6 24.Rac1)* 23...bxa4 24.Rac1 Rab8
E2a11121) 25.e6!? Qd6! *(25...fxe6 26.Ne5)* 26.Qc3 Rxe6 27.Rxe6 Qxe6 28.Qxc7±;

E2a11122) 25.Qa5± ½-½ Ivanov,S (2546)-Yemelin,V (2522)/ St Petersburg 2002/ (37) White has attacked 3! black's pawns by one move.;

E2a112) 17...Ne4 18.N5h4±;

E2a113) 17...Qd7 18.N3h4 *(18.g4⇄)*

E2a1131) 18...Na4!? 19.Rb1 Nb6 20.Qg4!↑ Qe6 *(20...Nc4?? 21.Nh6++-)* 21.Qg3 Nc4

E2a11311) 22.Nxg6 hxg6 23.Nd4 *(23.Nh4?! N6xe5 24.Bxe5 Nxe5 25.f4 Qb6+∓)* 23...Nxd4 24.cxd4 c5;

E2a11312) 22.Kh1!?± ½ (63) Spraggett,K (2520)-Korneev,O (2580) San Sebastian 1999;

E2a1132) 18...Rad8 19.Nxg6 hxg6 20.Nd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Ne6 22.Bg3 c5 23.dxc5 Bxc5 24.Bd3 ½-½ Svidler,P (2723)-Jussupow,A (2583)/Germany 2004/CBM 100;

E2a114) Stronger is 17...Ne6 '!' 18.Bh2 *(18.Bg3 Ne7* and black gets reasonable position.*)* 18...Na5 19.Ne3 *(19.N3h4!? c5 20.Nxg6 hxg6 21.Nd6)* 19...c6 20.Nd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Nc4 22.b3 Nxe3 23.Rxe3 c5! 24.Bxg6 hxg6 25.dxc5 Bxc5 26.Rd3 d4 27.Kh1 Rc8 28.f4 Qd5= ½-½ Wahls,M-Huebner,R/GER-CupT 1991 (42);

E2a12) 16...Ne6 17.Nxe7+ Nxe7 18.Bb3 h6 19.Be3 c6 20.Nd4 Qd7 21.f4 Nf5?! *(21...Nxd4 22.cxd4 Be4=)* 22.Nxf5 Bxf5 23.g4 Be4 24.f5± 1-0 Tumurhuyag,N-Bayarsayhan,Y/MGL-ch Erdenet 1994 (31);

E2a13) 16...Qd7 17.g4 Ne6 18.Be3 Na5 19.b3 b4 20.c4 c6 21.Qd2 Qb7 22.cxd5 cxd5 23.Rad1 Rad8 24.N3d4± ½ (123) Stellwagen,D (2561)-Holzke,F (2479) Germany 2005;

E2a14) 16...Ne4!? '?!' - 71/357 'N!?' 'N!?' Timman's novelty which he tried against van den Doel.In the later game Adianto decided to check this move against Svidler,but the try was unsuccessful... 17.Nxe7+ *(17.Bxe4?* Mikhalevski,V *dxe4)* 17...Rxe7 18.Bf4±

E2a141) 18...Qe8!? Mikhalevski,V **Δ**♖d8 △19.Qxd5 *(19.a4!?)* 19...Nxc3! *(19...Rd8 20.Qb3 Nc5 21.Qa3 Ne6! 22.Bxg6 Nxf4 23.Bc2 Nxe5 24.Kf1!∞)* 20.Qd2 Bxc2 21.Qxc2 Nd5=;

E2a142) 18...Qd7 19.Nh4! Nc5 *(19...Nxe5??* Mikhalevski,V *20.Bxe5 Rxe5 21.Nxg6 hxg6 22.Rxe4+-)* 20.Nxg6 hxg6

E2a1421) 21.Qf3! Mikhalevski,V '!?' Rae8 22.Red1! *(22.Rad1? Nxe5 △23.Qxd5? Qxd5 24.Rxd5 Nf3+-+)* 22...d4! *(22...Nxe5 23.Qxd5 Qxd5 24.Rxd5±)* 23.b4 Ne6 24.Bh2! *(24.Be4? Nxe5! 25.Bxe5 Ng5)* △24...Ng5 25.Qd3! Nxe5 26.Qg3! *(26.Bxe5 Rxe5 27.Qxd4=)* 26...Qd5 27.f4 Nef3+ *(27...Ngf3+ 28.Kh1! Nxh2 29.Rxd4 Qc6 30.fxe5+-)* 28.Kh1! Nxh2 *(28...Re3 29.fxg5 △Ne1? 30.Rxe1! Rxg3 31.Rxe8+)*

29.fxg5±;

E2a1422) 21.Be3 '!?' '?!' 21...Ne6 22.f4 d4 23.Be4 Rd8 *(23...dxe3?? Mikhalevski,V 24.Qxd7 Rxd7 25.Bxc6+-)*

E2a14221) 24.Bc1? Nc5 *(24...d3 Mikhalevski,V 25.Be3 Na5 26.b3±)* 25.Bf3?! *(25.Bxc6 Mikhalevski,V Qxc6 26.cxd4 see 25.♗:c6 Ftacnik,L: 'see 25. ♗:c6' Ne6 27.Be3 Nxd4 28.Bxd4 Qc4± /= △29.Re4 c5 30.Rc1 Qd5)* 25...Qe6 *(25...d3 Mikhalevski,V 26.Be3 Ne6 27.Qd2)* 26.f5? *(⌓26.Bxc6 Mikhalevski,V Qxc6 27.cxd4 see 25.♗:c6)* 26...gxf5

E2a142211) 27.Bg5 Mikhalevski,V dxc3 28.Qc2 cxb2 29.Rab1 Nxe5! 30.Bxe7 *(30.Qxc5 Nxf3+ 31.gxf3 Qxe1+-+)* 30...Qxe7∓;

E2a142212) 27.Bxc6 Qxc6 28.Bg5 f6 29.exf6 Rxe1+ 30.Qxe1 gxf6 31.Qe7 Re8 32.Qxf6 Qxf6 33.Bxf6 d3∓ 0-1 (42) Van den Doel,E-Timman,J/NLD-ch 1997 This position has arised by force and it's difficult to understand why Van der Doel didn't play 26. ♗:c6 to get slightly better position.Now he has to fight for a draw. White is helpeless. The queen side pawns decide the game. 0-1 Van den Doel, E-Timman,J/NLD-ch 1997;

E2a14222) ⌓24.cxd4 Mikhalevski,V Ncxd4 25.Rc1 c5 *(25...Nf5!? 26.Bxf5 gxf5∞)*;

E2a14223) 24.Bf2! Ree8 *(24...Nxf4 25.Qf3 Nd5 26.cxd4±; 24...d3 25.Qg4±)* 25.Qg4± 1-0 (27) Svidler,P (2660)-Adianto, U (2610)/Groningen 1997/ (44) Ne7 26.h4 *(26.Rad1!?±)*

E2a142231) 26...Nd5 27.f5;

E2a142232) 26...d3!?

E2a1422321) 27.Red1 Nd5! *(27...Nd4? 28.Qxd7 Ne2+ 29.Kh2! Rxd7 30.g3+-)* 28.f5 *(28.g3? f5! 29.exf6 Nxf6 30.Qxg6 Nxf4)* 28...Nef4!⇄;

E2a1422322) 27.h5 Nd5! 28.f5 Nef4∞;

E2a1422323) 27.Rad1 d2 28.Rf1 *(28.Re2? Nd4)* 28...b4 29.Be3 *(29.cxb4 Qa4 30.a3 c5)* 29...Qa4∞;

E2a142233) 26...c5 27.Rad1± 1-0 Svidler,P (2660)-Adianto,U (2610)/Groningen 1997/ (44);

E2a2) 16.Bxg6 ½-½ Topalov-Marin,Budapest 1993;

E2a3) 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Ne6 18.Be3 c5 19.Ne2 Rc8 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.dxc5 Bxc5 22.Bxc5 Rxc5 23.Nd4 ½-½ (23) Berelowitsch,A (2541)-Korneev,O (2551) Senden 2002;

E2a4) 16.Be3

E2a41) 16...Bf8 17.Bd4 Ne6 18.h4 Ncxd4 19.cxd4 c5 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.Qd2 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 cxd4 23.Qxd4 Rc8 24.Rac1 Rc4

25.Rxc4 dxc4∓ 0-1 Villavicencio,A-Garcia,G/Las Palmas op 1989 (37);

E2a42) 16...Ne6 17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.Qc2 Qd7 19.Rad1 Na5 20.h4 Nc4 21.Bc1 c5 22.h5 *(22.b3 Nb6 23.h5 gxh5 24.Nxh5 Nf8* ½-½ Bossert,C-Kindl,P/Zalaegerszeg 1993 *)* 22...gxh5 23.Nxh5 Rad8 24.b3 Nb6 25.Qf5 Qc6∞ Sznapik,A-Marin,M/Budapest zt-B 1993/0-1 (59);

E2a43) 16...Qd7= '=' '=';

E2b) 15.g4 Wedberg: 'Very ambitious. White wins a ♙, but Black has plenty of counterplay.' 15...Bg6 16.Bxg6 16.♗f5!? hxg6 17.Ne3 Qd7

E2b1) 18.b4 White could have eaten the d5-pawn fried or boiled, but it wasn't tasty either way. So White tries the b4-ketchup. Na4 *(18...Ne6 19.Nxd5 Rad8 20.Nxe7+ Nxe7 21.Qxd7 Rxd7 22.Be3 Rd3 23.Nd4 Rxc3 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.Rec1=* 0-1 (54) Guliyev,N (2590)-Graf,A (2620) Ourense 2007*)* 19.Nxd5 Rad8 20.Nxe7+ Qxe7 21.Qc2 Qd7! 22.Kg2 *(22.Bg5 Qd3⇄)* 22...Qd3↑ 23.Qxd3 Rxd3 24.e6 *(⌓24.Bd2)* 24...fxe6 25.Bd2? *(⌓25.Bg5 Nxc3 26.a3∓)*

E2b11) 25...Rf8! This is more or less a deciding move.

E2b111) 26.Re3 Rxf3 27.Kxf3 Rxd2 28.Rxe6 Rd3+ 29.Kg2 *(29.Re3 Rxc3 30.Rxc3 Nxc3 31.a3 Nd4+ 32.Kg2 g5∓)* 29...Rxc3∓;

E2b112) 26.Rxe6 Rdxf3-+;

E2b113) 26.Be3 Nxc3∓ 27.Ng5 *(27.a3 Rxf3 28.Kxf3 Nd4+ 29.Kg3 Nc2∓)* 27...Nd5 28.Nxe6 Re8∓;

E2b12) 25...e5?! 26.Re3 Red8 27.Rxd3 Rxd3 28.Re1 Nb6 29.Re3 Rd6 30.Re2 Nc4 31.Be1 Rd3= ½-½ Onischuk,A (2580)-Timman,J (2630)/Wijk aan Zee 1997/ (49);

E2b2) 18.Nxd5 Rad8 19.Nxe7+ Qxe7 20.Qc2 *(20.Qe2 Nd3 21.Rd1 Qd7 22.b3 Qd5 23.Be3 Ncxe5 24.Nxe5 Rxe5 25.Qf1 Rxe3 26.fxe3 c5=* ½ (37) Baramidze,D (2554)-Jussupow,A (2605) Pulvermuehle 2006 *)* 20...Nd3 21.Bg5 Nxe1 22.Rxe1 f6 23.exf6 *(23.Qxg6 Qf7∓)* 23...Qf7∓;

E2b3) 18.Qxd5 Rad8⩱ *(18...Red8 19.Qxd7 Rxd7 20.Nc2 Nd3 21.Re2 Bc5⩱)* 19.Rd1 Qe6= Wahls,M-Hübner,R, Munich 1991. 20.Qxe6 fxe6 21.♗d2 ♘d3 21.Nd4 Nxe5 22.f4 Nf7∓ 0-1 (45) Wahls,M (2560)-Huebner,R (2620) Munich 1991 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-13. Nf1 Re8 14.h3 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

14.h3

[14.cxd4? Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nxd4 16.Qd1 Nxc2 17.Qxc2 Qd3∓]

14...Bh5

[14...Bxf3? 15.Qxf3 d3 16.Bb1 is senseless for Black since d2 is impossible. Qd7 17.b4±]

15.Ng3

[15.g4 '?!' d3 '!' 16.gxh5 dxc2 17.Qxc2
A) 17...f6 18.e6 *(18.exf6 Rxf6 19.Rd1 Qe8 20.Ng5 Qxh5∓* Mortensen,E-Wedberg,T/Torshavn Nordic-ch 1987/½-½ (65) *)* 18...Qd5 19.Qe2 Qxh5∞ Jansa,V-Wedberg,T/Gijon/1988;
B) 17...Qd5 18.N1h2 Rad8 '∓' 0-1 Mariano,N-Mikhalevski,V/Calcutta 2001/CBM 82 (32)]
[15.b4 d3 16.Bb1 Na4 17.Bxd3 Nxc3 18.Qc2 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Bxb4 20.Bxh7+ Kh8 21.Be4 Nd4 22.Qd3 c5-+ 1-0 (53) Frolyanov,D (2535)-Mikhalevski,V (2504) Chess.com INT 2017]
15...Bxf3 16.Qxf3 d3 The most critical line is 17.b4! Mikhalevski,V: 'Strong counterblow and probably the best move in the position.'
[17.Bb3?
A) 17...Na5 18.Rd1 *(*Worth consideration *18.Nf5* '!?' *)* 18...Naxb3 19.axb3 Nxb3 20.Rxd3 Qc8 '∞' Wedberg. *(*The right move is *20...Qe8* brings black equality after *21.Rb1 Nxc1 22.Rxc1 Bh4* '!?' *23.Nf5 Qxe5 24.Nxh4 Qg5* '=' *)* 21.Nf5 Qe6 22.Qg4± 1-0 Shirov,A (2699)-Mikhalevski,V (2524)/Bastia 2002/(46) *(22.Nd4? Nxd4 23.cxd4 c5∓)*;
B) 17...d2 This is the difference with 14...Bxf3?]
[17.Qxc6 dxc2
A) 18.Nf5?! Nd3 19.Re2 Bg5 20.f4 *(20.Ne3 Nxe5 21.Qe4 Re8 22.Qxc2 Nd3 23.Bd2 Nf4 24.Ree1 Qd3∓* Sanz-Wedberg/Gijon/1988*)* 20...Nxf4 21.Bxf4 Bxf4 22.Rxc2 Qd3∓ Brynell,S-Wedberg,T/SWE team Cup/1988 Brynell,S-Wedberg,T/Swe team cup/1988;
B) 18.Qf3 Nd3 19.Re2 Bg5 20.Bxg5 Qxg5 21.Rxc2 Nxe5 22.Qe4 Rae8 23.Re2 Re6= ½-½ Vehi Bach,V-Wedberg,T/Biel op 1990 (27)]
[17.Bb1? d2 18.Bxd2 Qxd2 19.Rd1 Qxb2 20.Qxc6 Qxc3 21.Qxc7 Bd8 22.Qd6 Bg5∓]
17...dxc2 18.bxc5 Once I have played 18...Nxe5? and only after
[18...Qd7
A) 19.Bf4!? This is already a new move. Probably Vishy didn't want to enter complications which had place in Timman-Kortschnoj,1986. The idea of 19.Bf4 is simple. White wants to win the c2-pawn playing Rac1. Bxc5 *(* I could also start with *19...Qe6)* 20.Rac1 Qe6 21.Rxc2 Rad8 The most logical. Black is taking the d-file. It seems that Black has solved opening problems, but it's not so simple yet. 22.Nh5?! Allows 22...f6 *(* It would be more accurate to start with *22.Rce2)*
A1) 22...f6! This interesting resource makes all the difference. Now White has to fight for equality.
A1a) 23.Be3 Interesting tactical possibility. Nxe5 24.Qg3
A1a1) 24...Rd7?! leads to unclear position after 25.Bxc5 *(25.Rce2)* 25...Nf3+ 26.gxf3 *(26.Qxf3? Qxe1+ 27.Kh2 Qe5+)* 26...Qxe1+ 27.Kh2 Rff7 Unfortunately now 27... Rd1 is impossible. *(27...Rd1?? 28.Qxg7#)* 28.Bd4∞;

A1a2) 24...Rf7! This move looks better than 24...Rd7 since the d8-rook can be useful. See 25.Bxc5

A1a21) 25.Bxc5 Nf3+ 26.gxf3 *(26.Qxf3 Qxe1+ 27.Kh2 Qe5+)* 26...Qxe1+ 27.Kh2 Rd1 This is the difference with 24...Rd7. Now the g7-square is covered by the other rook. 28.Qg2 Qe5+ and Black wins.;

A1a22) 25.Rce2 Bxe3 26.Rxe3 Qxa2 27.Nxf6+! Rxf6 28.Rxe5 Rdf8! Black gets an extra pawn while White's threats on the king side are not very serious.;

A1b) 23.Qg3 Rf7 24.Rce2 *(24.Bh6 Bf8!; 24.Nxf6+? Rxf6 25.exf6 Qxe1+ 26.Kh2 g6)* 24...fxe5 25.Bxe5 Nxe5 26.Rxe5 Qc4 *(26...Bxf2+? 27.Qxf2)* 27.Re8+ Rxe8 28.Rxe8+ Bf8 with advantage for Black.;

A2) 22...Be7 23.Rce2 White wants to move the bishop, then to play Nf4 unblocking his e-pawn. h6± ½-½ Anand,V (2755)-Mikhalevski,V (2524)/ Bastia 2002/ (32) *(*It would be safer to play *23...Kh8)*;

B) 19.Nf5

B1) 19...Kh8?! Wedberg 20.Qg4 g6 21.Nxe7 Qxg4 22.hxg4 Nxe7 23.Bg5 Nd5 24.Rac1± Rodriguez,A-Wedberg,T/New York Open/1988;

B2) 19...Qe6!? Wedberg This could well be the best move in the position. 20.Qg4 *(20.Qxc6 Qxf5 21.Qxc7 Qe6!∓; 20.Nd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Rfd8 22.Bb2 a5 23.Qc3 a4 24.a3 Qb3 25.Rac1 b4 26.axb4 Rab8 27.Rxc2 Rxb4 28.Qxb3 Rxb3 29.Ra1± 1-0 (70) Ponomariov,R (2743)-Krasenkow,M (2651) Bled 2002)* 20...Qg6 *(20...g6!?)* 21.Qxg6 hxg6 22.Nxe7+ Nxe7 23.Bg5 Nd5∞;

B3) 19...Nxe5!? A piece for unclear compensation A surprising novelty. Kortschnoj gives a piece for unclear compensation. 20.Rxe5 Qd1+ 21.Kh2 Bf6

B3a) 22.Qg3!? Rfe8 23.f4 Re6?! 24.Nh6+ Kf8 25.Rxe6 fxe6 26.Ng4 Be7 27.Qf2 Kg8 *(27...Rd8 28.Ne3* Magomedov,M*)* 28.Ne3 Bxc5□ 29.Nxd1!+- Magomedov,M-Mamahdshoev,Dushanbe 1997;

B3b) 22.Re3 Rad8 If Black would get b4 in, things would look rather rosy. *(22...b4* Wedberg *23.Ne7+ Kh8 24.Nd5±; 22...Rae8* Wedberg *23.Nh6+ Kh8 24.Rxe8 Rxe8 25.Nxf7+ Kg8 26.Nh6+ Kh8 27.Qf5±)* 23.a3 a5 24.Qe4 *(24.Ne7+* Wedberg *Kh8 25.Nc6 Rde8 26.Nxa5 Be5+ 27.g3 f5 28.Kg2 f4 29.gxf4 Re6!→* This was Kortschnojs suggestion after the game. *30.Qe4 Rg6+ 31.Qxg6 hxg6 32.Rxe5 Rxf4∓)* 24...h5

B3b1) 25.Nd4? Rxd4! 26.cxd4 Bxd4 27.Ra2 Qxc1! 28.Rxc2 *(28.Qxd4* Wedberg *Qb1 29.Ra1 c1Q 30.Rxb1 Qxb1 31.Qe5=)* 28...Qb1 29.Ree2± ½-½ (44) Timman,J-Kortschnoj,V/Koop Tjuchem Groningen 1996/ *(29.Qxd4* Wedberg *Qxc2∓)* 29...Bf6 ½-½ Timman,J-Kortschnoj,V/Groningen 1996/ (44);

B3b2) 25.Ne7+! Wedberg 25...Kh8 *(25...Bxe7 26.Qxe7 Qf1 27.Re2 Rd1 28.Rxc2±)* 26.Nc6 Rd5 27.Nxa5 Rxc5 28.Nb3 Rxc3 29.Rxc3

Bxc3 30.Ra2+-]
[18...Qe8 Hansen,Cu 19.Nf5→]
19.Rxe5 Qd1+ 20.Kh2 Bf6 21.Rf5!+- Timman's recommendation in 68-th Informant. This is the main difference.Now ♖:f6 and ♘h5 are threatening and black has no time for counterplay. realized that Kortschnoj played first 18...Qd7 and sacrificed the knight a move later. 21...Rfe8
[21...Rae8 doesn't save 22.Rxf6! gxf6 23.Bh6! Qxf3 24.gxf3 Rd8 25.Rc1 Rfe8 26.Rxc2±]
[⌓21...Qxf3 22.Rxf3 Rad8 23.Bf4 Rd1 24.Rc1 Rxc1 25.Bxc1 Re8 with some chances. △26.Nf5? *(26.c6!?; 26.Re3!?)* 26...Re1 27.Re3 Be5+!]
22.Rxf6!?
[22.Nh5!? Qxf3 *(22...Be5+? is refuted by 23.Rxe5! Qxf3 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.gxf3; 22...Be7 23.Rxf7 Bf8 24.Qf5)* 23.Nxf6+ gxf6 24.Rxf3 Rad8 *(24...Re1 25.Rg3+ Kh8 26.c4!)*
A) 25.Rg3+ Kh8 26.Bh6 *(26.Re3!?* Δ♖:e8,♗e3(b2),♖c1 *)* 26...Rd1∞;
B) 25.Re3! Δ♖:e8,♗e3(b2),♖c1]
22...gxf6 I took a deep breath as I thought that 22.♘h5 had been simplier. Unfortunately the text is not worse. 23.Qxf6? This natural move is a mistake.
[23.Bh6! is much simplier. Qxf3 24.gxf3 △Re5 *(24...Kh8)* 25.Ne4 *(25.Rg1 Kh8)* 25...Kh8 26.Nxf6! Rf5 27.Rg1! Rxf6 28.Bg7++-]
23...Re6□ Now I felt that I had chances to escape. 24.Qg5+ Rg6□ 25.Qe5 Re6! □
26.Qxc7
[26.Qf4!? Gruenfeld,Y]
26...Qe1! ½-½ Gruenfeld,Y (2475)-Mikhalevski,V (2540)/Ramat Aviv 1998/ (58)
27.a4!+- ½ (58) Gruenfeld,Y (2475)-Mikhalevski,V (2540) Ramat Aviv 1998 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-11.Bc2 Be7 12.Re1 0-0 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]
12...Qd7 13.Nf1
[13.h3 Not the most dangerous move here, but Movsesian had already played this. Bh5
A) 14.Nf1 Rd8!? *(14...0-0 15.Ng3 Bg6)*
A1) 15.g4 Bg6 16.Ng3 0-0 *(*This is probably better than *16...Bxc2* played by Ivanchuk against Sergey.*)* 17.Be3 *(17.Bf5 Bxf5!? 18.gxf5 Ne4! 19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.Qxd7 Rxd7 21.Rxe4 Rd1+⩱; 17.Nf5 Ne4!)* 17...Ne4 18.Bf4 f5 19.g5 ½-½ Movsesian,S (2666)-Marin,M (2557)/Istanbul 2000/;
A2) 15.Ng3 Bg6 16.Nd4 *(16.Qe2 0-0 17.Be3 Rfe8 18.Rad1 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Ne6 20.Nf5 Na5 21.N3d4 Bf8 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Ng3 Qf7=* 0-1 (68) Khatanbaatar,B (2507)-Torre,E (2552) Istanbul 2000*; 16.Be3 0-0 17.h4 Qg4 18.h5 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 g6 20.Rad1 Rfe8 21.Nh2 Qh4 22.Nf3 Qg4 23.Nh2 Qh4 24.Nf3* ½-½ (24) Pavlovic,M (2495)-Marin,M (2550) Bad Woerishofen 2002 *)*
A2a) 16...0-0 17.Bf5 *(17.Ngf5 Nxd4!)* 17...Ne6 18.Bg4 Ncxd4 19.cxd4 c5 20.Nf5 Qa7 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.Be3= 0-1 (42) Huebner,R (2620)-Kortschnoj,V (2650) Tilburg 1986;

A2b) 16...Nxd4 17.cxd4 Ne6 18.Be3 *(18.Nf5 c5 19.dxc5 Bxc5 20.Qf3 0-0 21.Qg3 f6 22.Bd2 fxe5 23.Qxe5 Rde8 24.Ne3 Bxe3 25.Bxg6 Bxf2+ 26.Kh1 hxg6* 0-1 (26) Kosteniuk,A (2489)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve 2013*; 18.Bf5 c5)* 18...c5 19.Bf5 cxd4 *(19...Qa7!? 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Qg4 cxd4 22.Bxd4 Qd7=)* 20.Bxd4 Rc8!? *(20...Bh4 21.Bxg6 hxg6 22.Ne2∞)* 21.a4 0-0 22.axb5 Qxb5 *(22...axb5!? 23.Ra7 Rc7)* 23.Bc3 *(23.Bg4 Rc6 24.Bc3 Rd8∞)* 23...d4! 24.Bxd4 Rcd8 25.Bxe6 fxe6 26.Qg4 *(26.Qa4 Rxd4* transposes*)* 26...Rxd4□ 27.Qxd4 Bc5 28.Qg4 Bxf2+ 29.Kh2 Bxe1 30.Rxe1 Qd5!∓ ½-½ Socko,B (2528)-Atalik, S (2549)/Neum 2000/ (42);

B) 14.b4 Ne6 15.Nb3 0-0 16.Bf5 Rfe8 17.Qd3 Bg6 18.g4 Bf8 19.Be3 Ne7 20.Rad1 c6 21.h4 h5 22.Bxg6 Nxg6 23.gxh5 Nef4 24.e6 Rxe6 25.Qf5 Rd8 26.Nbd4 Ne7 27.Qxf4 Re5 28.Nxe5+- 1-0 (28) Naiditsch,A (2571)-Sagalchik,G (2487) Playchess.com INT 2004;

C) 14.Nb3 Ne6 *(14...Rd8 15.Nxc5 Bxc5 16.e6 fxe6 17.Bf5 Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Qf7 19.Bxe6 Qxf3 20.Bxd5+ Ne7 21.Bxf3 0-0 22.Bg5* Hansen,Cu,Ftacnik: '+-' '+-' Hansen,Cu,Ftacnik: '1-0 (48) Ricardi,P (2555)-Sorokin,M (2560) Villa Gesell 1996' *Rde8 23.b4+-* 1-0 (48) Ricardi,P (2555)-Sorokin,M (2560) Villa Gesell 1996 *)* 15.Bf5

C1) 15...Bg6

C1a) 16.Nfd4 '!?' 'Seems the most dangerous for Black.' Ncxd4 *(16...0-0 17.Bg4 Ncxd4 18.cxd4 a5 19.f4 h5 20.Bxh5 Bxh5 21.Qxh5 a4 22.Nc5 Nxc5 23.dxc5 Bxc5+ 24.Be3 Bxe3+ 25.Rxe3 f5 26.e6 Qe7 27.Rae1 Rad8 28.g4±* 1-0 Nunn,J-Tal,M/Naestved 1985/MCL (39)*)* 17.Nxd4 Bxf5 18.Nxf5 Bf8 *(18...Rd8 19.Qg4 g6 20.Nxe7 h5? 21.Nxd5! Qxd5 22.Qe2 0-0 23.a4 Rfe8 24.axb5 axb5 25.Ra5 c6 26.Ra7±* 1-0 Popadic, D-Sljukic,M/JUG-chT2 1994/EXT 97 (38)*; 18...Bc5 19.Be3 Bxe3 20.Rxe3 g6 21.Nh6 Rf8 22.Ng4 0-0-0 23.Nf6 Qc6 24.Rd3 Kb7 25.Qd2 h5 26.Rd1±* 1-0 Zapata,A-Pereira,S/Buenos Aires 1998/ (50)*)* 19.f4 g6 20.Ne3 c6 21.f5 Bashkov,V-Kreuzer,M/Budapest Spring op/1992 (36);

C1b) 16.Bg4 h5!? An improvent on 16...♘cd8.Black decides the problem of a pin by means of a simple exchanging of the annoying bishop.As shows the game the temporary weakness of the c5 and g5 squares is not very essential. *(16...Ncd8 17.Nfd4 h5 18.Bf3 Nb7 19.Nc2 c6 20.Be3 a5 21.a4 bxa4 22.Rxa4 c5 23.Ra1 Nc7 24.Bf4± ½-½* Shtyrenkov,V-Kharitonov,A/Kursk 1987/ (56)*)* 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Be3 This move carries the same idea as below-mentioned 18. ♗g5,but Leko realizes it in a bit different way. *(18.Bg5!?* was a possible alternative.The idea behind the move is very simple.White exchanges Black's black-squared bishop in order to get control under weak black squares c5 and g5.*)* 18...0-0 19.Nc5 Bxc5 20.Bxc5 Rf4 The rook should stay on the f-file and it's not difficult to discover that f4 is the only available square on it. *(20...Rf5?? 21.Nh4+-; 20...Rf7? 21.Nh4±* winning a pawn*)* 21.Nd4 *(*Or *21.Qd2 Re4)* 21...Re4

Attaking the e5-pawn Black is calling out a serial of exchanges. 22.Nxc6 *(22.Rxe4* looks more precise in order to exclude 23...♗:e4,but maybe it was a provocation?!*)* 22...Qxc6 23.Rxe4 dxe4!? *(23...Bxe4* was possible, but Piket probably was worried of his king side.Anyway he decided to defend actively and frees the d5-square for his queen.*)* 24.Qd4± ½ (46) Leko,P (2725)-Piket,J (2633) Wijk aan Zee 2000;

C1c) 16.g4

C1c1) 16...0-0 17.Be3 *(17.h4?! h5! 18.Ng5 Bxf5 19.gxf5 Nxg5 20.hxg5 Qxf5 21.Qxd5 Qg4+ 22.Qg2 Nd8∓)* 17...Rad8 18.Qe2 a5 19.Rad1 Rfe8 20.Kg2 a4 21.Nc1 Na5 22.Nd3 Nc4 23.b3 Nxe3+ 24.Qxe3 axb3 25.axb3 c5∞ ½-½ Bologan,V-Kotronias,V/Debrecen 1992/EU-chT (34);

C1c2) 16...h5 17.Qd3 hxg4 18.hxg4 Bxf5 19.gxf5 Nc5 20.Nxc5 Bxc5 21.Bf4 0-0-0 22.a4 Ne7 23.axb5 axb5 24.e6 fxe6 25.Rxe6+- 1-0 (33) Zhigalko,S (2647)-Nesterets,A (2408) Alushta 2010;

C1c3) 16...Ncd8 17.Be3 0-0 *(17...a5 18.Qe2 a4 19.Nbd4 Rb8 20.Nxe6 Nxe6 21.Nd4 c5 22.Nc2 0-0∓* 0-1 Zielinski,M-Haba,P/Cappelle 1989/ (32) *23.Rad1 Rfd8 24.Rd2 Bxf5 25.gxf5 Ng5 26.Qg4 h5! 27.Qxh5 Qxf5 28.Kg2 Rb6∓* 0-1 Zielinski,M-Haba,P/Cappelle 1989/TD (32) *)*

C1c31) 18.Kh1 a5 *(⌓18...Nb7)* 19.Qe2 a4 20.Nbd4 Rb8 21.Bd3 Bxd3 22.Qxd3 Nc5 23.Qf1 Ne4 24.Rad1 Ne6 *(⌓24...a3! 25.Nf5 Δ♖xd5 c6∓)* 25.Nf5 c6 0-1 Tseshkovsky,V (2575)-Agzamov,G (2435)/ Frunze 1981/ (44);

C1c32) 18.Qe2 Nb7 19.Rad1 c5⇄ 20.Nbd2 c4 21.Ne4 Qc6 22.Ng3± 1-0 Renet,O-Kharitonov,A/Royan 1988/CBM 09 (43);

C2) 15...0-0 16.Bxh7+ Kxh7 17.Ng5+ Bxg5 18.Qxh5+ Bh6 19.Bxh6 gxh6 20.Qf5+ Kh8 21.Qf6+ Kh7 22.Qf5+ 13 ½-½ Ilincic,Z-Lalic,B/YUG-ch ,CBM 1989;

C3) 15...Rd8 16.Nbd4 Ncxd4 17.cxd4 c5 18.dxc5 Bxc5 19.Be3 d4= Veroci,Z-Samuelsson,L/Manila olw /1992 (29) Hansen,Cu,Ftacnik: 'Veroci,Z-Samuelsson,L/Manila olw/ 1992 (29)';

C4) 15...Ncd8

C4a) 16.g4 Bg6 17.Be3 0-0 *(17...a5 18.Qe2 a4 19.Nbd4 Rb8 20.Rad1 c5 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Bxg6+ hxg6 23.Kg2± Hawley,MH-De Boer, R/cr 19 world ch sf 7 1991/ (49))* 18.Qe2!? *(18.Bc5 Bxc5 19.Nxc5 Qe7 20.Qxd5? c6∓* Celis,G-Juarez,A/Buenos Aires VII Najdorf op (09)/1995 (55) *)* 18...Nb7?! *(18...a5* ⌓ Marin,M *)* 19.Nbd4! c5 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Bxg6 hxg6 22.Rad1 Na5 23.h4 Nc4 24.Bc1 Qc6 25.Rd3!± Dimitrov,V-Marin,M/FRA 52/(337) 1991 (29);

C4b) 16.Be3

C4b1) 16...a5

C4b11) 17.Nc5

C4b111) 17...Bxc5 18.Bxc5 Bg6 *(18...g6 19.Bxe6 Nxe6 20.Be3 Bxf3 21.Qxf3 c5 22.Rad1 Rd8 23.Bh6 d4 24.Qf6 Rg8 25.cxd4 cxd4 26.Bd2 b4 27.a3 bxa3 28.bxa3 Qa7 29.Rb1±)* 19.Bg4 h5 20.Bxe6 Nxe6 21.Be3 c5 22.Nh4 d4 23.Nxg6 fxg6 24.cxd4 cxd4 25.Qf3 Rc8 26.Bd2± 0-1 (44) Zarnicki,P (2545)-Sorokin,M (2560) Villa Gesell 1996;

C4b112) 17...Qc6 18.Nd3 Bxf3! 19.Qxf3 g6 20.Bg4 *(20.Bxe6 fxe6!?∞)* 20...h5 21.Bxe6 Nxe6 22.Rad1± 1-0 (41) Ehlvest,J (2585)-Hjartarson,J (2590) Belfort 1988 Hansen,Cu,Ftacnik: 'Ehlvest,J-Hjartarson,J/Belfort 45/386 1988 (41)';

C4b12) 17.Qe2!?;

C4b13) 17.Bc5 a4 18.Bxe7 Qxe7=

C4b131) 19.Nbd4

C4b1311) 19...Nxd4 20.cxd4 Ne6 21.g4!± Hamarat,T-Palmo,P/cr 57/344 1990 (35) *(21.Rc1 Bxf3 22.Qxf3 Nxd4 23.Qxd5 Rd8 24.Qe4 Nxf5 25.Qxf5 0-0 26.e6 fxe6 27.Qxb5 Rd2 28.Re2 Qd6 29.Rce1 Rxe2 30.Qxe2 Rf6 31.Qe4±)*;

C4b1312) 19...c6 20.Qc2 Bxf3 21.Nxf3 g6 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Nh2 0-0 24.Ng4± Astrom,G-Wedberg,T/Rilton Cup (05) , EXT 90op 1990 (57);

C4b132) 19.Nbd2 c6 20.b4 Ng5 21.Qe2 g6 22.Bg4 Bxg4 23.hxg4 Nde6 24.Qe3 h5∓ 0-1 (61) Karpov,A (2725)-Kortschnoj,V (2665) Baguio City 1978 0-1 Karpov,A (2725)-Kortschnoj,V (2665)/ Baguio City 1978/ (61) Hansen,Cu,Ftacnik: '⇄' '⇄' Hansen,Cu, Ftacnik: 'Karpov,An-Kortchnoi,V/Wch29-Baguio City ,MAINB 1978 (61)';

C4b2) 16...0-0 '!?' 17.Qe2 *(17.Nc5 Qc6 18.Nd3 Bg6 19.Bxg6 hxg6 20.Nd4 Qd7 21.b4 Rc8 22.Nb3* ½-½ Dimitrov,V-Sorin,A/Olot op (07) / 1992/ Hansen,Cu,Ftacnik: '½-½ Dimitrov,V-Sorin,A/Olot op (07) ,TD 92\ 09 1992' *)* 17...a5 18.Rad1 Bg6 19.g4 a4 20.Nbd4 c6= Popovic,P-Marin,M/Manila(izt)/1990/0,5 (25)/ 21.Qc2? *(21.Qd3± Marin,M ' ⩲ ')* 21...c5 22.Ne2 Qb7 23.Kg2 Nc6 24.h4 Rad8 25.h5 ½-½ (25) Popovic,P (2520)-Marin,M (2485) Manila 1990 Hansen,Cu,Ftacnik: '½-½ Popovic,P (2520)-Marin,M (2485)/Manila 1990/';

C4b3) 16...Nb7 ' 17.g4 *(17.Qe2 c5 18.Rad1 Rd8 19.Nbd2 Qc6 20.g4 Bg6 21.Nf1 0-0 22.Ng3± Sigurjonsson,G-Stean,M/Munich 28/ 276 1979 (42); 17.a4!? bxa4?! 18.Nbd4 Nbc5 19.g4! Bg6 20.Nxe6 Nxe6 21.Qxa4±* Timmerman,GJ-Van Buuren,G/cr Holland ch (10) 1982 (42) *)* 17...Bg6 18.Nfd4 c5 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Bxg6+ hxg6⇄ 21.Qd3 0-0-0 22.Qxg6 Qc6 23.Nd2 Rxh3 24.Kg2 d4+ 25.Ne4 Rdh8 26.cxd4= ½-½ (26) Zarnicki,P (2545)-Slipak,S (2535) Buenos Aires 1996]

[13.Nb3 Ne6 14.Qd3 Bh5 15.Nfd4 Bg6 16.Qe2 Ncxd4 17.Nxd4 Nxd4

18.cxd4 c5 19.dxc5 Bxc5 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.e6 Qc6 22.exf7+ Kxf7 23.Qf3+ Kg8 24.Be3± 1-0 (70) Schmid,L (2530)-Kortschnoj,V (2695) London 1980]

13...Bh5 14.Ng3 Bg6 15.Be3

[15.h4

A) 15...Rd8 16.h5 *(16.Be3 0-0 17.h5 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Ne6 19.Nf5 Rfe8 20.a4 b4 21.h6 g6 22.Nxe7+ Qxe7 23.a5 Rb8 24.Ra4 Rb5 25.c4 dxc4 26.Qxc4 Nxa5* Palac,M-Vucic,M/Belgrade GMA 1988/0-1 (71)*)* 16...Bxc2 17.Qxc2 Ne6 18.a4 0-0 19.axb5 axb5 20.Nf5 Rfe8 21.Be3 Bf8 22.Rad1 Na5 23.Ng5 Nxg5 24.Bxg5 Rb8 25.h6 g6 26.Ng3 Qg4 27.Bf6 1-0 Jansa,V-Wiedenkeller,M/Gausdal Int 1986 (38);

B) 15...0-0 16.h5 Bxc2 17.Qxc2

B1) 17...h6 18.Be3 f5 19.Bxc5 Bxc5 20.b4 Be7 21.e6 Qe8 22.Nxf5 Qxh5 23.Re5 Qe8 24.Rxd5 Rf6 25.Re1 Rd8 26.Qe4 Rxd5 27.Qxd5 Nd8 28.N3d4 Qf8 29.Qd7 1-0 Howell,J-Copeland,G/BCF-ch 1987;

B2) 17...Ne6!? 18.Be3 Rfe8 *(18...f6 19.exf6 Rxf6 ½-½* Lau,R-Brueckner,T/BL9091 1991 *)* 19.Rad1 h6 20.Nf5↑

B2a) 20...Bf8 21.Nh2! **Δ** ♘g4, ♗h6 Ng5 *(21...Nxe5 22.Bxh6* **Δ** f4→ *)* 22.Bxg5 hxg5 23.Ng4±;

B2b) 20...Bg5?! 21.Qd2!± 1-0 Rodriguez,A-Xu Jun/Subotica izt 1987 (41);

B3) 17...f5 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Be3 Ne6 20.Rad1 Rad8 21.Ne4 Qf7 22.Nxf6+ Qxf6 23.Bc1 Rd6 24.a4 bxa4 25.Qxa4 Qf5 26.Qh4± 0-1 (35) Mokry,K (2470)-Jussupow,A (2555) Dubai 1986]

[15.Nd4 Nxd4 *(15...Bxc2 16.Qxc2 0-0 17.Ngf5 Rfe8 18.Re3 Bf8 19.Nxc6 Qxc6 20.Nd4 Qd7 21.b4 Ne6 22.Rh3 g6 23.Be3 c5 24.Nxe6 Rxe6 25.f4 cxb4 26.Bd4 Bg7 27.cxb4 Rc6 28.Bc5 Bf8= ½-½* Prandstetter,E-Priehoda,V/CSR-ch 1990 (47)*)* 16.cxd4 Ne6 *(16...Bxc2 17.Qxc2 Ne6 18.Nf5 0-0 19.Be3 Rfd8 20.Rad1 Bf8 21.f4 Rac8 22.Qd3 c5 23.dxc5 Bxc5 24.Bxc5 Rxc5* ½ (31) Nisipeanu,L (2575)-Stoica,V (2465) Timisu de Sus 1998 *25.Qg3±)* 17.Be3 c5 18.Nf5 0-0 19.dxc5 Bxc5 20.Bxc5 Nxc5 21.Rc1 Bxf5 22.Bxf5 Ne6 23.Rc3± 1-0 Short,N-Garcia,G/Dubai olm 1986 (59)]

15...Ne6

[15...Rd8 16.h4 Bxc2 *(16...0-0)* 17.Qxc2 Qg4 18.h5 0-0 19.Qf5 Qxf5 20.Nxf5 Ne6 21.N3d4 Nexd4 22.cxd4 Rd7 23.Rec1± 1-0 Fishbein,A-Baquero,L/Philadelphia opI 1992 (30)]

16.a4

[16.h4!?]

16...0-0 17.Nf5

[17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.b4!? Fixing queen flank.]

17...Rfd8 18.Qe2 Bf8 19.h3

[19.axb5 doesn't promise a lot. axb5

A) 20.Rxa8 Rxa8 21.Qxb5 Rb8= *(21...Nxe5 22.Qxd7 Nxd7=)*;

B) 20.Qxb5

B1) 20...Nxe5 21.Qxd7 Nxd7 *(21...Rxa1 22.Qxf7+! Bxf7 23.Rxa1 Nxf3+ 24.gxf3±)*;
B2) 20...Rxa1 21.Rxa1 Nxe5 *(21...Rb8!?)* 22.Qe2! *(22.Qxd7!? Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 Rxd7 24.Ra7)* 22...Nxf3+ 23.Qxf3±;
B3) 20...Rab8 21.Qe2 Rxb2 22.Reb1 Rdb8]

19...b4 20.Rad1?
[⌓20.a5! Δg4 and then ♗a4]
20...Na5!?
[20...bxc3!? 21.bxc3 Na5 Δc5 and Black has very comfortable position]
21.cxb4?!
[⌓21.N3h4 bxc3 22.bxc3 c5=]
21...Nc4!
[21...Bxb4!? 22.Bd2!
A) 22...Rdb8?? 23.Bxb4 Rxb4 *(23...Bxf5 24.Bxa5)* 24.Rxd5+-;
B) 22...Bxd2?! 23.Qxd2 Nc4
B1) 24.Qc1 Bxf5 *(24...Rab8?? 25.Rxd5!)* 25.Bxf5 Rab8 *(25...Qxa4; 25...Qxa4?! 26.Qb1! Rab8 27.Bxe6! fxe6 28.Ng5 g6 29.Nxe6±)* 26.b3 Rxb3 27.Bxh7+ Kh8∞;
B2) 24.Qc3 c6∞;
C) 22...Nc6!∓ ×b4]
22.Bc1
[22.b3 Na3! 23.Be4 c6∓]
22...Bxb4∓ 1-0 Hunt,H (2390)-Tonkov,B (2320)/London 1998/ (40) Ruy Lopez Open Variation-11.Bc2 Be7 12.Re1 Qd7 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[86] **13.b4** Ne6 14.Nf1 0-0 15.a4 Qd7 16.Bf5 Rad8 17.axb5 axb5 18.g4 Bg6 19.h4 h5 20.Ng3 d4 21.Ra6 hxg4 22.Bxg4 1-0 (41) Short,N (2665)-Torre,E (2555) Manila 1988 22...Qe8∓
13.Nb3 Ne6 14.Bf5 0-0 15.Qd3 Bg6 16.Be3 Bxf5 17.Qxf5 Qd7 18.Ng5 g6 19.Qh3 h5 20.Rad1 Rad8 21.Qg3 Nxg5 22.Bxg5 Bxg5 23.Qxg5± 1-0 (48) Kupreichik,V (2470)-Agzamov,G (2590) Volgograd 1985

[87] **15.Be3**
[15.Nf5 Qd7 16.g4
A) 16...Rad8 17.h4 *(17.N3d4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Ne6 19.f4 Bb4 20.Rf1 f6 21.h4 fxe5 22.dxe5 d4∓* 0-1 (41) Van Mil,J (2450)-Kotronias,V (2550) Wijk aan Zee 1992 *)* 17...h5 18.N3d4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Ne4 20.f3 Bxf5 21.gxf5 Bxh4 22.fxe4 Bxe1 23.Qxe1 dxe4 24.Be3 Qxf5 25.Qh4 Qg4+ 26.Qxg4 hxg4 27.Bxe4± 1-0 (55) Arnason,J (2555)-Wedberg,T (2475) Torshavn 1987;
B) 16...Rfd8 17.N3d4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Ne6 19.h4 *(19.Be3 c5 20.f3 Rac8 21.Rc1 cxd4 22.Bd2 Rc4 23.b3 Rcc8∓* 0-1 (56) Thipsay,P (2470)-Agzamov,G (2590) Frunze 1985*)* 19...c5 20.dxc5 Bxc5 21.h5 Bxf5 22.gxf5 Nd4 1-0 (40) Sutovsky,E (2612)-Grinshpun,E (2401) Israel 1999 23.Bd3 Nxf5

24.Bg5±]
[15.Nd4 (...27.)]
15...Qd7
[15...Re8 16.Rc1 *(16.h4 Bxc2 17.Qxc2 Nd7 18.Bf4 Nf8 19.h5 Ne6 20.Be3 Na5 21.Rad1 Nc4 22.Bc1 c5 23.Qf5*+- 1-0 (38) Ivanchuk,V (2535)-Tukmakov,V (2570) New York 1988*) 16...Bf8 17.b4 *(17.Bxc5 Bxc5 18.Bb3 Ne7 19.h4 h6 20.h5 Bh7 21.Nd4 Rf8 22.Bc2 Bxc2 23.Rxc2±* ½ (45) Popovic,P (2570)-Fishbein,A (2435) Saint John 1988*)* 17...Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Ne6 19.Rcd1 Qd7 20.Ne4 Ne7 21.h4 Qc6 22.Nc5 Nxc5 23.Bxc5± 1-0 (71) Ljubojevic,L (2620)-Torre,E (2540) Brussels 1987]
16.h4↑ Anand,V-Torre,E / Thessaloniki ol 1988
[16.b4 Na4 17.Bxa4 bxa4 18.a3 Rfd8 19.Bg5 Re8 20.Bxe7 Rxe7 21.Ra2 Be4 22.Nxe4 dxe4 23.Qxd7 Rxd7 ½ (67) Geller,E (2540)-Agzamov,G (2590) Riga 1985 24.Rd2±]
[16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Qc2 Ne6 18.b4 a5 19.a3 Rfb8 20.Rad1 axb4 21.axb4 Ncd8 22.h4 Qc6 23.Qb3 Qc4 24.Qxc4 dxc4 25.Ne4± 1-0 (73) Svidler,P (2640)-Sokolov,I (2615) Pula 1997]
16...Rfe8
[16...Rad8 17.h5 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Ne6 19.Rad1 f6 *(19...f5 20.Nxf5 Qe8 21.g4 Na5 22.Kg2 c5 23.Bc1 Nc6 24.Rh1 Rf7 25.a4 Bf8 26.axb5 axb5 27.Ng5 Nxg5 28.Bxg5*+- 1-0 (65) Ivanchuk,V (2700)-Hjartarson,J (2590) New York 1995*)* 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.Ne4 h6 *(21...Qf7 22.Nxf6*+ *Qxf6±* 0-1 (35) Mokry,K (2470)-Jussupow,A (2555) Dubai 1986 *23.Rd2)* 22.Nc5 Nxc5 23.Bxc5 Rfe8 24.Rxe8+ Qxe8 25.Qf5 Qd7 26.Qg6 Ne7 27.Qd3 Qf5 28.Qe2 Nc6 29.a4 bxa4 30.Qxa6 ½-½ (30) Psakhis,L (2575)-Kharitonov,A (2450) Sochi 1987]
17.h5 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 h6 19.Rad1 Bf8 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Qd2 Rad8 ½ (34) Short,N (2615)-Torre,E (2540) Brussels 1987 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 Bg4 11.Bc2 Be7 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[88] **12...Qd7** 13.Nb3
[13.Nf1 Rd8
A) 14.a4! This typical strike seems to be just in time now. b4 *(14...d4!? 15.axb5 axb5 16.h3 Bh5 17.Be4±)* 15.a5! Fixing the ♙a6. As well as the manoeuvre ♗c2-a4 will be at white's disposal. Na7?! Black's position is unpleasant, but this strange manoeuvre makes the things worse for black. *(15...bxc3 16.bxc3 d4 17.Ba4↑;* Better was the natural *15...Be7* and black's position is only slightly inferior.*)* 16.Ng3 bxc3 17.bxc3 Nb5 18.h3 Bxf3 *(18...Nxc3? 19.Qd3 Bxf3 20.Qxc3*+- *)* 19.Qxf3± 1-0 Ramesh,R (2456)-Ledger,D (2271)/Torquay 2002/ (33) Now black has significant problems with development. It's clear now, that black's manoeuvre ♘c6-a7-b5 was just a waste of time.;
B) 14.Ng3?! g6! 15.h3 Bxf3 16.gxf3 d4 17.cxd4 Qxd4 18.Qxd4 Ncxd4 19.Be4 Bb4 20.Rf1 0-0∓ 0-1 Polgar,S-Sulistya,M/Jakarta 1996/EXT 98 (41);

C) 14.Ne3 Bh5

C1) 15.g4 Bg6 16.Nf5 Bc5 17.a4 0-0 *(⌓17...b4)* 18.axb5 axb5 19.Bd3 Ne7 20.b4 Bb6 21.Qe2 c6 22.Ra6 Rb8 23.Be3± 1-0 Zagrebelny,S-Magomedov,M/Moscow 1983/ (42) 1-0 Zagrebelny,S-Magomedov,M/Moscow 1983/EXT 2002 (42);

C2) 15.Nf5 Bc5 16.Qd3 Bg6 17.a4 Ne7 18.g4 Bb6 and black seems to be OK. 1-0 Grunthal,R-Alava,M/FIN-chT 1993/EXT 98 (41) and black seems to be OK. and black seems to be OK. and black seems to be OK. Ftacnik,L: '1-0 Grunthal,R-Alava,M/FIN-chT 1993/EXT 98 (41) and black seems to be OK.' *(⌓18...h5)* 19.axb5 axb5 20.N3d4 0-0 21.h4↑ 1-0 Grunthal,R-Alava, M/FIN 1993/EXT 98 (41)]

[13.a4 b4 14.Nb3?! This knight manoeuvre does not seems to me the strongest one.The ♘ on b3 may become unemployed, because it's not easy to occupy the important d4 square with the ♘ due to an unpleasant pin on the h5-d1 diagonal. 14. ♘f1 looks better preparing to harass black's ♗g4 with h2-h3 and ♘f1-g3. bxc3 15.bxc3 Be7 16.h3 Bh5 Black can be satisfied with the results of the opening. 17.Bf5 *(17.Bd3!? 0-0 18.Be2)* 17...Rb8 18.g4?! A very risky decision.Unpinning the ♘f3 white seriously weakens his kingside. *(*L o g i c a l i s *18.Nbd4* with approximate equality.*)* 18...Bg6 19.Be3 h5 Starting to exploit the weakness of the white ♔. 20.Qc2 *(20.Nbd4 hxg4 21.hxg4 Bxf5 22.Nxf5 g6 23.Nxe7 Nxe7∓)* 20...hxg4= 0-1 Cuijpers,F (2458)-Sokolov,I (2659)/Wijk aan Zee 2002/ (33) 21.hxg4= 0-1 (33) Cuijpers,F (2458)-Sokolov,I (2659) Wijk aan Zee 2002]

13...Rd8 14.a4

[14.h3 Bh5 15.Bf5 *(15.a4)* 15...Bg6 16.g4 Be7 17.Nfd4 Ncxd4 18.cxd4 0-0 19.Bd2± ½-½ Liu Dede-Sokolov,I/Jakarta 1996/ (64)]

14...Be7

[14...Bh5 Interesting novelty, but it does not seem to solve all black's problems. 15.axb5 axb5 16.Bd3 Rb8 17.Qe2 Ne7 *(17...b4? 18.Bb5* and black is in trouble. *)* 18.Be3 *(*Probably stronger is *18.Nbd4)* 18...Ng6 19.Nbd4 Nxd4 *(19...Ngf4 20.Bxf4 Nxf4 21.Qe3±)* 20.cxd4 Nh4 21.Bg5 Nxf3+ *(21...Bxf3 22.gxf3 Be7 23.Bxh4 Bxh4 24.Qc2 g6±)* 22.gxf3 Bb4 *(22...Bg6?! 23.Ra7±)* 23.e6! Just in time. This breakthrew gives white the initiative, even without queens. fxe6 24.Qxe6+ Qxe6 25.Rxe6+ 1-0 Flores,D (2439)-Sagalchik,G (2491)/Buenos Aires 2003/ (75)]

[14...b4 15.Qd3 Nb8 16.Nbd4 c5 17.Nxe6 Bxe6 18.Bg5↑ 1-0 Hernandez,G-Sagalchik,G/Linares 1994/ (40)]

15.axb5 axb5 16.h3

[16.Qd3 Bh5 *(16...Rb8 17.Nfd4 Ncxd4 18.cxd4 c5 19.Qg3 Bh5 20.Nxc5 Bxc5 21.dxc5± ½-½* Rodriguez Cespedes,A-Kharitonov,A/Bayamo 1989/ (50) *)* 17.Qxb5 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Nxe5 19.Qxd7+ Nxd7 20.f4± 1-0 Paschall,W-Sagalchik, G/Seattle 2002/CBM 87 (53) Rc8 *(20...g6 21.f5 gxf5 22.Bxf5± ½-½* Ramesh,R-Tu Hoang Thong/Jodhpur 2003 (53)*)* 21.f5 Nd8 22.Bf4 Nc6 23.Na5 Nxa5 24.Rxa5± 1-0 Paschall,W-Sagalchik,G/Seattle 2002/CBM 87 (53)]

16...Bh5 17.Bd3 Rb8 18.Bf5 0-0 19.Qd3 Bg6 20.Bxg6 hxg6 21.Be3± 1-0 Vasiesiu,D-Raceanu,V/Bucharest 1999/ (31) 1-0 Vasiesiu,D-Raceanu,V/ Bucharest 1999/CBM 69 ext (31)

89 **13.Nb3** Mikhalevski,V 13...Ba7 14.Be3

[14.a4

A) 14...Ne7 'N' A logical move. Black is preparing c7-c5 getting control in the centre. 15.Be3?! Not the best way to meet black's novelty. *(15.axb5 axb5 16.Qd3 c6 17.Nfd4 Bxd4 18.cxd4 Rxa1 19.Nxa1 Bf5 20.Qc3 Bxc2 21.Nxc2 0-0 22.b3* and white is slightly better.*)* 15...Bxe3 16.Rxe3 c5 Black seems to be OK now. 17.Qb1?! White is running away out of the pin along the h5-d1 diagonal and taking control over the b1-h7 diagonal. However, this move is too much odd-looking to be good. *(17.h3* was more natural move. *)* 17...b4! This strong move was probably underestimated by Efimenko. *(17...d4 18.cxd4 cxd4 19.Rd3 Nf4 20.Nfxd4! Nxd3 21.Bxd3≌)* 18.Nh4 *(18.cxb4 d4 19.Rd3 Nf4 20.bxc5 Nxd3 21.Bxd3 Bxf3 22.gxf3 Ng6∓)* 18...bxc3 18...c4 was possible as well, but Sokolov goes for more tempting play. *(18...c4 19.Nd2 b3 20.Bf5 Nxf5 21.Nxf5 Bxf5 22.Qxf5 Qg5∓)* 19.bxc3 Rb8 20.Qe1 *(20.Rg3 h5!* and white is in trouble.*)* 20...d4!∓ ½-½ Efimenko,Z (2594)-Sokolov,I (2663)/Germany 2005/ (34) From the first sight it looks risky for black to open the centre with the uncastled king. But, in fact this is the right moment for central breakthrow, as black's pieces are much harmoniously placed than the white ones. ½-½ Efimenko,Z (2594)-Sokolov,I (2663)/Germany 2005/ (34) From the first sight it looks risky for black to open the centre with the uncastled king. But, in fact this is the right moment for central breakthrow, as black's pieces are much harmoniously placed than the white ones. ½-½ Efimenko,Z (2594)-Sokolov,I (2663)/Germany 2005/ (34) From the first sight it looks risky for black to open the centre with the uncastled king. But, in fact this is the right moment for central breakthrow, as black's pieces are much harmoniously placed than the white ones. Ftacnik,L: '!';

B) 14...b4 15.Qd3 *(15.Be3 bxc3 16.bxc3 Bxe3 17.Rxe3 Ne7 18.Nbd4 c5 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.a5 Nf5 21.Ba4+ Kf7=* 1-0 (42) Volokitin,A (2586)-Flear,G (2511) Saint Vincent 2002 1-0 (42) Volokitin,A (2586)-Flear,G (2511) Saint Vincent 2002 1-0 (42) Volokitin,A (2586)-Flear,G (2511) Saint Vincent 2002 Ftacnik,L: ' ∞' Ftacnik,L: '1-0 Volokitin,A-Flear,G/Saint Vincent 2002/ (42)' *)* 15...Bh5 16.Nfd4 Bxd4 17.cxd4 Bg6 18.Qd1 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Ncxd4 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.Qc5 Ne6 22.Qc6+ Ke7 23.Be3 d4 24.Bxd4! Nxd4 25.Qc5+ Ke6 26.Rad1 Qd5 27.Qxd4 Qxd4 28.Rxd4± ½-½ Lutz,C-Jussupow,A/Germany 1996/GER-chT (54) ½-½ Lutz,C-Jussupow,A/Germany 1996/GER-chT (54) ½-½ Lutz,C-Jussupow,A/Germany 1996/GER-chT (54) Ftacnik,L: ' ±' Ftacnik,L: '½-½ Lutz,C-Jussupow,A/Germany 1996/GER-chT (54) ½-½' a5=]

14...Bxe3

[14...Ne7 15.Bxa7 Rxa7 16.a4 Rb7 17.axb5 axb5 18.Nbd4± Rb6 19.b4 Nxd4

20.cxd4 Nc6 21.e6 fxe6 22.h3 Bxf3 23.Rxe6+ Ne7 24.Rxe7+ Kxe7 25.Qxf3 g6∓ 0-1 Angelov,G-Haba,P/Tuzla 1990 (39) 0-1 Angelov,G-Haba,P/Tuzla 1990 (39) 0-1 Angelov,G-Haba,P/Tuzla 1990 (39) Ftacnik,L: '=']

15.Rxe3 Ne7 16.h3 Bf5

[16...Bh5 17.g4?! *(17.Nbd4 c5 18.Nf5 Nxf5 19.Bxf5 0-0 20.Qd3 Kh8 21.b4 c4 22.Qd2 Bxf3 23.Rxf3 a5 24.bxa5 Nc7= ½* (60) Gaponenko,I (2422)-Mikhalevski,V (2632) Reykjavik 2008*)* 17...Bg6 18.Nfd4 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Ng6⇄ 0-1 Kourtesis,G-Flear,G/Athens Akropolis op 1989 (31)' 20.Rf1 0-0 21.Ne2 c5 22.f4 d4 23.Rg3 Qh4 24.Kg2 d3 25.Qxd3 c4-+ 0-1 (31) Kourtesis,G-Flear,G/Athens Akropolis op 1989 26.Qe3 Ftacnik,L cxb3 27.axb3 f5 28.gxf5 Rxf5 29.Qe4 Raf8 30.Qd5 Qf6 31.Nd4 Rxe5 0-1 Kourtesis,G-Flear,G/Athens Akropolis op 1989]

17.Nfd4 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 0-0 19.Rf1 Rc8 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Nc5 Nf5 22.Rd3 Qe7 23.b4 a5 24.Qe2± 1-0 Wahls,M-Rhodin,C/Hamburg-ch 1987 (32) 1-0 Wahls,M-Rhodin,C/Hamburg-ch 1987 (31)

13.a4 Mikhalevski,V 13...Ne7 14.Nb3 Bb6 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Qxa8 17.Qd3± 1:44-1:24 1-0 Rodriguez,A-Sorin,A/Capablanca mem-B 1993 (31) Ftacnik,L: '±' Ftacnik,L: '1-0 Rodriguez,A-Sorin,A/Capablanca mem-B 1993 (31)" 17...c6 18.Nfd4 Qc8

[18...Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Qc8 20.Bg5 h6 21.Bxe7 Kxe7 22.Qg3 Bxd4 23.cxd4+- ½ (38) Sax,G (2605)-Flear,G (2470) France 1990]

19.Qg3 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bxd4 21.cxd4 Ng6?

[21...Bf5!]

22.e6?!

[22.Qa3±]

22...Bxe6 23.h4 Kd7?

[23...0-0]

24.h5 Ne7 25.Qxg7+- 1-0 Rodriguez,A-Sorin,A/Capablanca mem-B 1993 (32) 1-0 Rodriguez,A-Sorin,A/Capablanca mem-B 1993 (32) 1-0 Rodriguez,A-Sorin,A/Capablanca mem-B 1993 (32) Ftacnik,L: '±'

13.b4 Bb6 14.a4 Ne7 15.Nb3 0-0 16.h3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 f6 18.Qd3 Ng6 19.Be3 fxe5 20.Bxb6 cxb6 21.axb5 Nef4 22.Qf1 Nh4-+ 0-1 (32) Reinaldo Castineira,R (2450)-Delchev,A (2637) Andorra 2006

[90] **13...Bh5** 14.Ng3

[14.b4 Bb6 15.Ng3 Bg6 16.h4 d4 17.Bg5 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Qd5 19.Nh5 Qc4 20.Nd2 d3 21.Qd1 Qd5 22.Ne4+- 1-0 (37) Sutovsky,E (2665)-Sokolov,I (2662) West Bromwich 2005]

14...Bg6 True, after 15.h4!?

[15.Bb3!? '!' for instance Ne7 16.h4 h6 17.h5 Bh7 18.Nd4 Bxd4 19.cxd4 0-0 20.Qg4 Kh8 21.Be3 Ftacnik,L: '1-0 Kovalev,A-Kaidanov,G/URS-OT56 Blagoveshchensk 1988 (44)' *(21.a4?! Δ♗d2 c5!?)* 21...Qd7 22.Rac1± 1-0 Kovalev,A-Kaidanov,G/URS-OT56 Blagoveshchensk 1988 (43) Rad8

A) 23.Bc2 f5 24.exf6 Rxf6 25.Bxh7 Kxh7 26.Rc2 Nc6?! 27.Nf5 *(27.Ne4)* 27...Nb4 *(27...Nexd4 28.Bxd4 Nxd4 29.Re7 Qxe7 30.Nxe7 Nxc2 31.Qe2 Nb4 32.a3 Na2 33.Qc2+ Kh8 34.b4+-)* 28.Rce2 Ng5 *(28...Nxd4? 29.Bxd4 Qxf5 30.Qh4!±)* 29.Bxg5 hxg5 30.Re5**±** 1-0 (44) Kovalev,A-Kaidanov,G/URS-OT56 Blagoveshchensk 1988;

B) 23.f4**±** Timofeev,A (2622)-Sokolov,I (2662)/Sarajevo 2005 (1/2, 71). It is not easy to improve over Black's play in this game. 23...f5 24.Qf3 a5 25.Ne2 Ra8 26.Bf2 a4 27.Bc2 Nc8 28.Qc3**±** ½ (71) Timofeev,A (2622)-Sokolov,I (2662) Sarajevo 2005]

[15.Nf5 Ne7 *(15...0-0 16.Be3 Qd7 17.Qd2 Rad8 18.Rad1 Rfe8 19.a4 Bxe3 20.Qxe3 bxa4 21.g4 Na5**∓** ½* (43) Handke,F (2450)-Gyimesi,Z (2606) Linares 2002 *)* 16.N5d4 Bxd4 17.cxd4 Bh5 18.a4 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Ng6 20.axb5 axb5 21.Rxa8 Qxa8 22.Be3 Qa5 23.Kh1 Qb4**∓** 1-0 (40) Nijboer,F (2558)-De Jong,J (2474) Hilversum 2008]

15...0-0?

[15...Qd7? 16.Bb3 Rd8 17.h5 Be4 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Qxd7+ Rxd7 20.Rxe4**±** 1-0 Innala,H-Granthal,R/FIN 1996/ (39)]

[15...d4!?**⇄** '**⇄**!' things seem to be OK for Black. 16.Bg5 The most logical move, continuing the development. *(16.Bb3 dxc3 17.bxc3 Qxd1 18.Rxd1 h6 19.h5 Bh7 20.a4 0-0 21.Bd5?! Rad8 22.axb5 Ne7 23.Bb3 Rxd1+ 24.Bxd1 axb5**∓*** ½ (70) Jakovenko,D (2608)-Sokolov,I (2662) Warsaw 2005 Black has achieved stable squares for all his minor pieces and has a dangerous queenside majority.*; 16.Ng5?!* pursues the concrete purpose of undermining Black's best piece, the e6-knight, but allows him complete the development with gain of time *Bxc2 17.Qxc2 d3 18.Qd1 Qd5 19.Nh5 0-0-0 20.Nf4 Nxf4 21.Bxf4 Rhe8**∓*** 0-1 (35) Van den Doel,E (2587)-Sokolov,I (2666) Netherlands 2008 As a consequence of White's repeated losses of time, Black has achieved a crushing advantage of space and centralization. Later, he switched to a decisive kingside attack.*)* 16...Qd7 17.cxd4 Ncxd4 18.Nxd4 Bxd4!**∞** *(18...Qxd4 19.Be3 Qxd1 20.Bxd1 0-0 21.h5 Bd3 22.Bxc5 Nxc5 23.Rc1 Ne6 24.Bg4±* 1-0 (109) Karjakin,S (2527)-Flear,G (2527) Hastings 2002 *)*]

[15...Bxc2 Mikhalevski,V 16.Qxc2

A) 16...d4?! 17.cxd4 Ncxd4 18.Nxd4

A1) 18...Qxd4 19.Be3 Qc4 *(19...Qb4 20.Rac1+-)* 20.Qxc4 bxc4 21.Bxc5 Nxc5 22.Rec1**±**;

A2) 18...Bxd4 19.Qc6+ Kf8**±**;

B) 16...0-0=]

[15...Ne7 16.h5 Bxc2 17.Qxc2 h6 18.Be3 Bxe3 19.Rxe3 0-0 20.Rd1 c5 21.Nf5 Nxf5 22.Qxf5 Ra7 23.Red3 Rd7= 1-0 (61) Grandelius,N (2491)-Sokolov,I (2669) Malmo 2009]

16.Bb3!**±**

[16.h5 Bxc2 17.Qxc2 f6!]

16...h6

[16...Qe7 17.h5 *(17.Qxd5 Na5⩱)* 17...Be4 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Rxe4 Rad8 20.Qe2±]
[16...Ne7 Mikhalevski,V 17.h5 Be4 18.Ng5! Nxg5 19.Bxg5±]
17.h5 Bh7 18.Bxd5 Ftacnik,L: '±' Ftacnik,L: '1-0 Almasi,Z (2595)-Jussupow,A (2665)/ Ubeda 1997/ (47)'
[18.Qxd5 Qe8⇄]
18...Qe8 19.Be4 Bxe4 20.Nxe4 Rd8 21.Qc2 Be7 22.Ng3 White has a +♙ and more space on the kingside. The win should be a matter of technique. 22...Qd7 23.Nf5 Qd3 24.Qxd3 Rxd3 25.Be3± 1-0 (47) Almasi,Z (2595)-Jussupow,A (2665) Ubeda 1997

13...0-0 14.h3 Bh5 15.Ng3 Bg6 16.Bb3
[16.Nf5 Qd7 17.a4 b4 18.a5 f6 19.exf6 Rxf6 20.N3h4 Raf8 21.Qe2 bxc3 22.bxc3 Bxf5 23.Bxf5 Ncd8= ½ (48) Sebag,M (2510)-Ivanchuk,V (2733) Cap d'Agde 2013]
[16.Be3 Bxe3 17.Rxe3 Ne7 18.Nd4 c5 19.Ndf5 Nxf5 20.Nxf5 d4⇄ Black has a solid kingside position and has counterplay in the centre. 21.Rf3 Bxf5 22.Bxf5 Qd5 23.Qc2 g6 24.Be4 Qxe5 25.Bxa8 Rxa8 26.Qd2± ½-½ (26) Jansa,V (2470)-Marin,M (2583) Benasque 2009]
16...Ne7 17.h4 h6 18.h5 Bh7 19.Nd4 Bb6 20.Be3 c5 21.Nf3 d4 22.cxd4 cxd4∓ 1-0 (36) Svidler,P (2749)-Ivanchuk,V (2769) Astana 2012

[91] **14.h3** 'N!?' 14...Bh5
[14...Bf5]
[In view of the general considerations regarding the opposition of the light-squared bishops (see below), 14...Bxf3 15.Qxf3 0-0 comes into consideration. White has the pair of bishops, but all Black's minor pieces are well placed.]
15.Ng3 Bg6 Usually in such situations, neither side would be interested in releasing the tension himself. However, after the knight retreat to e7, things are less clear, at least from Black's point of view. One important aspect is that after an eventual exchange ♗xg6 hxg6 followed by ♘d4 (or Ng5), the reserve knight cannot sustain his colleague with ... ♘cxd4 (or ... ♘cd8, respectively). Therefore, the g6 square would remain vulnerable, offering White chances for a kingside attack. In case of ... ♘xg6, it is not easy to say whether this knight is really well placed. It is ready to defend his colleague after a move to f4 or f8, but it leaves the f5- and h5-squares to the mercy of the g3-knight. We will see how this applies in concrete play slightly later. 16.b4
[In fact, even here 16.Bxg6 would have faced Black with a difficult decision, but maybe with his king's rook on h8 still, he would have had good reasons to play hxg6 and look for counterplay along the h-file.]
[16.Nh4 c6 17.Nxg6 fxg6 18.Qg4 Qd7 19.Ne2 Nf5 20.Bxf5 gxf5 21.Qg3 g5 22.Nd4 f4∓ ½ (128) Naroditsky,D (2479)-Narciso Dublan,M (2541) Forni di Sopra 2012]
16...Bb6

[From my part, 16...Bxc2 17.Qxc2 Bb6 would have been a concession because of 18.Nh5 We can see that the tension tends to have a slightly one-sided character.]

17.a4 White creates another spot of tension. However, the consequences of this move are less one-sided.

[17.Be3 Bxe3 18.Rxe3 a5! 19.Bxg6 Nxg6 20.a3 0-0 21.Nd4 Qd7 looks OK for Black, because of the possibility of getting the control of the a-file.]

17...0-0 18.Be3?! This thematic move gives Black the possibility of achieving comfortable equality. In order to get a complete evaluation of the opening variation, we have to consider the exchange on b5 or g6 before ♗e3.

[18.axb5 axb5 19.Rxa8 Qxa8 20.Be3 fails to impress. Bxe3 21.Rxe3 Bxc2 22.Qxc2 Qc6! A better way to activate the queen than keeping it along the a-file. 23.Ne2 Ra8 24.Ned4 Qc4 Black is quite stable since 25.Nxe6 fxe6 26.Ng5? fails to Ra1+ 27.Kh2 Qf4+ 28.Rg3 Nf5-+]

[However, 18.Bxg6 may be unpleasant for Black. hxg6 *(18...Nxg6 19.Nf5±; 18...fxg6 19.Be3 Bxe3 20.Rxe3 Nf5 21.Nxf5 gxf5 22.Nd4±* and the optimal blocking piece is exchanged, leaving White with a dangerous passed pawn.*)* 19.Bg5!? *(19.Be3 Bxe3 20.Rxe3* can once again be met by *a5!=* like suggested below *)* 19...Re8 20.Qd2 c5 21.bxc5 *(*The impatient *21.Bxe7 Rxe7 22.bxc5 Bxc5 23.Red1* allows Black regroup with *Rd7 24.Ne2 Qb6 25.Ned4 Bxd4 26.Nxd4 Rc8=)* 21...Bxc5 22.Red1 Nxg5 Finally, Black has to give up this knight, which leaves the kingside slightly exposed. 23.Nxg5 Nc6 24.Qf4 Nxe5 25.N3e4↑]

18...Bxe3 19.Rxe3 Bxc2! A good moment to carry out this exchange.

[I took some time examining the immediate 19...c5?! 20.Bxg6 hxg6 *(20...Nxg6 21.bxc5* ┐d5 *)* 21.bxc5 Qc7 but understood that after 22.Nd4 Qxc5 23.Nxe6 fxe6 24.Qg4↑ my kingside would be in danger.]

20.Qxc2 c5?! But this plan is wrong. Black creates himself unnecessary weaknesses.

[20...a5! is a better way to take advantage of the temporary lack of coordination between White's pieces. 21.axb5 axb4 22.Rxa8 Qxa8 23.Nd4 *(23.cxb4 Rb8∓)* 23...Qa1+ 24.Kh2 bxc3∞]

21.bxc5 Qc7 22.axb5 axb5 23.Rb1 Qxc5 24.Rb4!± A strong move, which aims to increase the pressure against Black's weak pawns and keep the possibility of a rapid kingside attack by a rook transfer along the 4th rank. 24...d4!? The best chance, probably, which, I suspect, my opponent had overlooked.

[24...Ra1+ 25.Kh2 Rfa8 fails to provide efficient counterplay after 26.Qd3±]

25.Ne4 1-0 (42) Ni,H (2710)-Marin,M (2556) Reggio Emilia 2009

[25.Nxd4 Nd5∓]

25...Qc8=

14.Be3 Bxe3 15.Nxe3 Bh5 16.Nf5 Nxf5 17.Bxf5 0-0 18.g4 Bg6 19.Qd2 c6 20.h4 h5 21.Ng5 hxg4 22.Bxg4 Nc5 23.h5± 0-1 (36) Lomasov,S (2493)-Vocaturo, D (2604) Minsk 2017

[92] **14...c6** 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 0-0 17.Kh2 Ng6 18.Re2 Qc7 19.Qf5 Rad8 20.Bd2 d4 21.Rae1 dxc3 22.bxc3 b4 23.Bb3 bxc3 24.Bxc3± 1-0 (35) Smirin,I (2678)-Narciso Dublan,M (2519) Barcelona 2011

14...0-0 This relatively new move seems to have become a specialty of Italian players. 15.Qd3!?N The critical test to Black's whole setup. The threat of mate in one forces Black to worsen his position inone way or another.

[Black's strategy was entirely justified in the following game: 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 f5! Black takes advantage of the vulnerability of the f2-square in order to block the kingside and get a very stable position all over the board. 17.Nh5 *(17.Nxf5?! g6; 17.exf6?! Rxf6)* 17...Qd7 18.Bd2 *(* Now or slightly later, White should have exchanged the blocking knight with *18.Nf4)* 18...a5 19.Rad1 c6 20.Bb1 Ng6! Black has completed his regrouping and is in control of the position. The pawns placed on light squares strongly restrict the c2-bishop, ensuring the e6-knight absolute stability. 21.Kh1 Qf7 22.Qe2 f4∓ Black already becomes ambitious. Caspi,I (2402)-Vocaturo,D (2445)/Reykjavik 2009/CBM 129 Extra (0-1, 43) ended in a strategic disaster for White.]

15...g6 Strategically, this looks correct, because the c2-bishop is restricted, but with queens on board the weakness of the kingside dark squares faces Black with permanent dangers.

[15...Ng6 is more solid, but leaves the f5-square undefended, making a later ...f5 impossible. 16.h3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 This position requires further practical testing. White has lost a tempo, but has made sure that the kingside will be his territory of action. Black needs to find a constructive plan of becoming active in the centre and on the queenside.]

16.h3 Bf5 Black has to give up his bishop for one of the enemy knights. He chooses to leave the knight on f3 in order to prevent a rapid attack based on f4-f5.

[After 16...Bxf3 17.Qxf3 the f6-square is not defended by the g7-pawn any more, making the desirable ...f6 impossible.]

17.Nxf5 Nxf5 18.Nh2! Forcing the further weakening of the black kingside. 18...h5

[18...c6 19.Ng4 Be7 20.Qf3±]

19.Qe2 Nfg7 Apparently, Black's position remains harmonious, but this would be entirely true only in the absence of queens. The white queen is more mobile than her rival, keeping both wings under observation and keeping the enemy king in permanent danger. 20.Nf3 c6 21.Be3 Qb6 22.Qd2 Bxe3 23.Rxe3 Rfd8 24.Rd1 Ra7 25.Rd3 Rad7

[Black cannot prevent the enemy queen's intrusion to h6 for long: 25...Kh7 26.Nh4 Rad7 27.Rg3 Kg8 *(27...c5 28.Nxg6!+-)* 28.Qh6→]

26.g4!± 1-0 (40) Kobalia,M (2637)-Godena,M (2561) Rijeka 2010 An important prophylactic move. The threat of gxh5 is not too realistic, because it would just offer additional squares to the black knights. The main point behind the last move is preventing ...♘f5.

[26.Qh6 Nf5 achieves nothing for White.]

15.h3 h4 16.Nf1 Bh5 17.a4

[17.b4!? Bb6 18.a4]

17...b4

[17...d4 Ftacnik,L: 'An attempt to improve this opening variation for black.' 18.Be4 *(*Deserves a closer look *18.b4!? Bb6 19.Be4 c6 20.Qd3)* 18...c6 19.Qc2 *(19.b4 dxc3! 20.bxc5 Qxd1 21.Rxd1 Nxc5∞)* 19...Bxf3 20.Bxf3 Bb6 *(⌓20...dxc3 21.Qxc3 0-0* Black's pieces are well placed, which gives a sufficient compensation for some pawn weaknesses.*)* 21.Nd2 *(21.Rd1!?)* 21...0-0 22.Be4± 1-0 Grischuk,A (2671)-Piket,J (2659)/Wijk aan Zee 2002/ (53)]

18.a5! Fixing the weakness on a6.

[18.Be3 Bxe3 19.Nxe3 Rb8 20.Ng4 Bg6 21.Bxg6 Nxg6 22.Nd4 Ne7 23.Qd3 Nc5 24.Qe3 bxc3 25.bxc3± 1-0 (35) Grigoriants,S (2566)-Simacek,P (2470) Pardubice 2011]

18...bxc3 19.bxc3 Qb8 Black has been preparing exchange of dark-squared bishops by means of ♕a7 hoping to get the f4-square for his knight. 20.Ra4! The best square for the rook.It takes under control the f4-square and attacks the h4-pawn. 20...Qa7 21.Be3 g5?!

[I think 21...Bxe3!? would leave more chances to reach equality. 22.Nxe3

A) 22...Rh6!? 23.Ng4 *(23.Rxh4? Bxf3)* 23...Rh8 24.Nxh4 Qc5 25.Re3 Nc6±;

B) 22...Bxf3 23.Qxf3 Qc5]

22.N1h2 Bxe3 23.Rxe3 Nf4 Otherwise ♘g4 is unpleasant 24.Qd2 Rg8 25.Re1!+- 1-0 Adams,M (2715)-Sokolov,I (2637)/Sarajevo 2000/ (65) Preparing ♘:g5. Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 Bg4 11.Bc2 Ne6 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik] 1-0 Adams,M (2715)-Sokolov,I (2637)/Sarajevo 2000/ (65) Preparing ♘:g5. 1-0 Adams,M (2715)-Sokolov,I (2637)/Sarajevo 2000/ (65) Preparing ♘:g5. Ftacnik, L: '!'

[25.Nxg5 Nxg2!]

[93] **9...Qd7** 10.c3 Nc5 11.Bc2 Bg4 12.Nbd2 Ne6 13.h3 Bh5 14.a4 Rb8 15.axb5 axb5 16.Bf5 Be7 17.Nb3 0-0 18.Nbd4 Ncxd4 19.cxd4 Bg6 20.Bg4 Ra8 21.Qd2± 0-1 (53) Carlsen,M (2733)-Ivanchuk,V (2751) Nice 2008

9...Nc5?! 10.Nc3!

[10.Qe2 Be7 11.Rd1 0-0 12.Nc3 *(12.c4 Nxb3 13.axb3 Nb4 14.Nc3 c6 15.Ne4 Bg4 16.Nc5 Qc8 17.Rac1 f6 18.e6 Re8 19.Qd2 a5 20.cxb5 cxb5 21.Nd7 Qa6 22.Nc5 Qd6=* 0-1 (33) Wedberg,T (2475)-Tukmakov,V (2570) New York 1988 *)* 12...Nxb3 13.cxb3 Qd7 14.Rd2 *(14.Rac1 Rad8 15.Bg5 Bxg5 16.Nxg5 h6 17.Nf3 Rfe8 18.h3 d4 19.Ne4 Bd5=* A.Sokolov-Hellers, Stockholm 1989, and Black looks fine. *20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.Rxd4 Rxe5 22.Qd3 Rxe4* ½-½ (22) Sokolov,A (2605)-Hellers,F (2565) Stockholm 1989 *)* 14...Rad8!? *(14...Na5 15.Ne4±; 14...f6)* 15.Rad1 Rfe8 16.h3 f6 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Rxd5 Qxd5 19.Rxd5 Rxd5 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.Qc2± 1-0 Sokolov,A (2570)-Marin,M (2485)/Manila 1990/ (37) Ne5?! *(⌓21...Re6)* 22.Nd2 Nd3 *(22...c5 23.Qf5±)* 23.Qc6 Rdd8 *(23...Red8 24.Ne4 Bxb2 25.Qe6+ Kh8 26.Ng5 Ne5 27.Qf5+-)*

24.Qxa6

A) 24...Nxf2 25.Kxf2 Bh4+ 26.Ke2! *(26.g3 Bxg3+; 26.Kf3 Rd3)* 26...Bg5 27.Nf1+-;

B) 24...Nxb2 25.Qxb5 Nd1 26.Nc4 Nxe3 27.Nxe3+- 1-0 (37) Sokolov,A (2570)-Marin,M (2485) Manila 1990]

10...Nxb3 11.cxb3

[11.axb3 Be7 12.h3 *(12.Qd2 0-0 13.Rfd1 Nb4 14.Ne2 Bf5 15.Ned4 Be4 16.c3 Nd3 17.Qe2 Nc5 18.Nc6 Qe8 19.Nfd4 Ne6 20.f3 Nxd4 21.Nxe7+ Qxe7 22.Bxd4 Bg6 23.b4±* 1-0 (65) Korneev,O (2582)-Noe,C (2422) Heusenstamm 2016*)* 12...Nb4 *(12...0-0 13.Ne2 Qd7 14.Nf4 f6 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Nxe6 Qxe6 17.c3 b4 18.Nd4 Bxd4 19.Bxd4 Rf4 20.Bc5 Re4 21.Re1 bxc3 22.bxc3 Rd8 23.f3 Rxe1+ 24.Qxe1 Qxe1+ 25.Rxe1 d4 26.cxd4* ½-½ (26) Lanka,Z (2420)-Tukmakov,V (2590) Riga 1988*)* 13.Ne2 c5 14.c3 Nc6 15.Nf4 0-0 16.Re1 Qd7 17.Re2 Rfd8 18.Rd2 Qb7! 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Rxd5 Nxe5∓ Filipenko-Chekhov/SSSR/1982/]

11...Be7 12.Rc1 Qd7

[12...0-0!? 13.Nxb5 axb5 14.Rxc6 Rxa2 15.Qb1 Ra8 16.Rfc1 Rc8 17.Qc2±]

13.Qd2

[13.h3! 0-0 *(13...Nd8!?* Δc5 *14.Ne2 Nb7 15.Nf4 c5 16.Nh5 0-0 17.Qd2 Kh8 18.Bg5 d4 19.Qf4→)* 14.Ne2 f6?! Kortschnoj: 'A novelty. More stubborn already applied several times is 14... ♖fc8' *(14...Rfc8 15.Nf4 a5 16.a3 Nd8 17.Nd3 Bf5 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 Ne6 20.Nd4±* 1-0 Groszpeter,A (2555)-Brunner,L (2475)/ Biel 1990/ (56) *Bg6 21.Qd2 c6 22.Rfe1 Re8 23.Bd6 Nxd4 24.Qxd4±* 1-0 (56) Groszpeter,A (2555)-Brunner,L (2475) Biel 1990 *)* 15.exf6

A) ⌓15...Bxf6

A1) 16.Qc2 Kortschnoj Still it had to be played: d4 *(16...Nb4 17.Qd2!)* 17.Qxc6 dxe3 18.fxe3 Bxb2 19.Qxd7 Bxd7 20.Rxc7 with two bishops black has some practical chances to save the game.;

A2) 16.Ned4 Bxd4 *(16...Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Rae8 18.Re1±)* 17.Nxd4 Nxd4 18.Bxd4±;

B) 15...Rxf6 16.Ned4 Kortschnoj: 'After this strong move it becomes clear that black is totally outplayed and will be not able to hold the game too long.' Nxd4□ *(16...Bf7? 17.Rxc6!+-; 16...Bxh3?! 17.Rxc6 Qg4 18.Nh4 Qxh4 19.Rxf6 Bxf6 20.Nf3 Qh5 21.gxh3+-)* 17.Bxd4 *(17.Nxd4?? Kortschnoj Bxh3!)* 17...Rf5 18.Ne5 Qc8 Kortschnoj: 'Black makes the only moves not to lose at once...' 19.Nc6± Bd6 20.Bc5 Qd7 21.Bxd6

B1) 21...Qxd6 22.Nd4 Rf4! *(22...Re5 23.Rc6 Qd7 24.Re1 Rxe1+ 25.Qxe1 Bf7 26.Qe5 Re8 27.Rxc7±)* 23.Nxe6 *(△23.Rc6?! Rxd4! 24.Rxd6 Rxd1 25.Rxe6 Rd2 26.Rc1 Ra7 27.Re8+ Kf7 28.Rc8 Rxb2 29.R8xc7+ Rxc7 30.Rxc7+ Kf6 31.Rc6+ Ke5 32.Rxa6 d4∞; 23.Qd2!? Bd7 24.b4)* 23...Qxe6 24.Rxc7±;

B2) 21...cxd6?! Kortschnoj: 'Since superiority of white is based on domination along the c-file black clears it off. But now white gets an excellent square for

his pieces-d4! ' Kortschnoj: 'Since superiority of white is based on domination along the c-file black clears it off. But now white gets an excellent square for his pieces-d4! ' 22.Nd4 Re5 23.Rc3± 1-0 Ponomariov,R (2677)-Kortschnoj, V (2639)/Donetsk 2001/ (45)]

[13.Ne2 Rc8 14.Nf4 0-0 15.Bc5 Rfd8 16.Bxe7 Nxe7 17.Qd4 Bg4 18.Ne1 *(18.Nd2 c5! 19.Rxc5 Rxc5 20.Qxc5 g5 21.h3 gxf4 22.hxg4 Ng6⇄)* 18...c5!! 19.Rxc5 Nf5 20.Qc3 d4⇄ Smagin-Mikhalchishin, Moscow 1989 21.Qc1 Rxc5 22.Qxc5± ½- (44) ½ (44) Smagin,S (2540)-Mikhalchishin,A (2475) Moscow 1989]

[13.Bg5 0-0 14.Bxe7 Nxe7 15.Qd4 Rad8 16.Qa7 Nc6 17.Qxa6 Bg4 18.Nd1 Nb8 19.Qb7 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Qf5 21.Ne3 Qxe5 22.Qxc7 Qxb2= 1-0 (36) Shirov,A (2689)-Simacek,P (2454) Czech Republic 2016]

13...0-0 14.Rfd1 Rad8 15.Bg5 d4 16.Ne4 Bd5 17.Qf4± Winsnes-Krasenkov/ Stockholm/1989/

[94] **10.Qd3** sometimes transposes into 10.Qe2, however in the following game it had an independent meaning. See Pelletier,Y-Hracek,Z, Calvia ol 2004/CBM 104 [Pelletier,Y] 10...0-0

[10...Ne7

A) 11.c3

A1) 11...Bf5? Besser sollte der Springer das Feld f5 besetzen. 12.Bxc5 Nxc5 13.Qe3 Nb7 Wohl notwendig, *(13...Ne6* konnte *14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4* mit gutem Stellungsvorteil für Weiss folgen. *)* 14.Nbd2 c5 15.Nh4! c4 16.Nxf5 Nxf5 17.Qh3 Ne7 *(*Der Tausch *17...cxb3 18.Qxf5 bxa2 19.Nf3!* wäre ebenfalls vorteilhaft für den Anziehenden. *)* 18.Bc2 Qd7 19.Qh5 Qe6 20.Nf3 Qh6 21.Qg4± 1-0 Platz,H-Popov,L/Sofia 1953/ (38);

A2) 11...Nf5 12.Nd4 *(12.Bd4 Bxd4 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.Qxd4* usw. Weiss hat aber auch danach infolge der etwas geschwächten schwarzen Felder eine gute Stellung.*; 12.Bxc5 Nxc5 13.Qe2 d4 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.cxd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Qxd4 17.Rd1 Qf4 18.g3 Qe4 19.Nc3 Qxe2 20.Nxe2 Nd7 21.Nf4 Ke7 22.Rac1 Rhc8 23.Rc6*+- 1-0 (41) Amonatov,F (2648)-Filippov,A (2584) Tashkent 2009*)* 12...Bxd4 13.cxd4 c5 14.dxc5 Rc8 15.Rc1 d4 16.Qxe4 dxe3 17.fxe3 0-0 18.Bxe6 Rxc5 19.Bxf7+ Rxf7 20.Nc3 Rc4 21.Qf3 Qe8 22.Rf1± 1-0 (58) Ulybin,M (2589)-Magerramov,E (2551) Abu Dhabi 2002;

B) 11.Nc3 Bxe3 12.Qxe3 Nf5 13.Qe1 Nc5 14.Rd1 c6 15.Ne2 0-0 16.c3 Nxb3 17.axb3 Qb6 18.b4 a5 19.Ned4 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 axb4 21.cxb4± Δ♘ b3-c5 c5 22.bxc5 Qxc5 23.Qd2± 1-0 Magem Badals,J (2565)-Slipak,S (2535)/Buenos Aires 1996/ (39) White seems to have achieved all his aims. The ♘ is visibly stronger than the ♗ and f4-f5-f6 is in the air. Blacks hope is to disturb White by infiltrating on the open a- and c-files.]

11.Nc3 Ftacnik,L: 'Pelletier: 'ist die Alternative"

[11.c3 f6 12.Nbd2 Nxd2 13.Qxd2 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 fxe5 16.Qxe5 Qd7 17.a4 Bf7 18.axb5 axb5 19.Rad1 c6 20.Bc2 Rfe8 21.Qd4 Ra2

22.Rd2 Qd6 23.b4 Ra3 24.Rc1 Bg6 ½-½ (24) Shirov,A (2726)-Anand,V (2781) Mallorca 2004]

11...Bxe3

[11...Nb4 12.Qe2

A) 12...Nxc3 13.bxc3 Bxe3

A1) 14.Qxe3 Nc6

A1a) 15.Qc5 Na5 *(15...Qd7 16.a4* ½-½ (16) Kotronias,V (2590)-Grivas,E (2505) Rhodes 1993*)* 16.a4 Nb7 17.Qc6 Na5 18.Qc5 Nb7 19.Qc6 ½-½ Stefansson,H-Piket,J/Moscow olm (04)/1994/;

A1b) 15.a4

A1b1) 15...Qe7 16.Rfd1 Rfd8 17.h3 h6 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 c5 20.dxc5 Rac8 21.axb5 axb5 22.Ra6 *(22.Rd4 Rxc5 23.Rad1 Rdc8 24.Bxd5 Rxc2 25.Bxe6 Qxe6 26.Rd8+ Kh7 27.Rxc8 Qxc8 28.Qd3+ g6 29.Qxb5=* ½ (43) Svidler,P (2746)-Carlsen,M (2765) Baku 2008 *)* 22...Qxc5 23.Qxc5 Rxc5 24.Rd4 Kf8 25.Ra7 g5 26.Rb7 Bf5 27.Rd1= ½ (49) Lagarde,M (2613)-Grandelius,N (2651) Bydgoszcz 2022;

A1b2) 15...Na5 16.axb5 axb5 17.Nd4 *(17.Qc5 c6 18.Nd4 Ra6 19.f4 g6 20.Ra3 Qd7 21.Rfa1 Rfa8 22.Qd6 Qxd6 23.exd6 Bd7 24.Bxd5 cxd5 25.Nb3 Rxd6 26.Rxa5 Rc8=* ½ (60) Magem Badals,J (2505)-Korneev,O (2500) Seville 1994*)* 17...Qe8 18.f4 c5 19.Nxe6 ½-½ Kasparov,G-Kramnik,V/Moscow 2001/ (19);

A2) 14.cxb4 Bb6∞ **Δ** 15...a5; 15...c5 Nunn.;

B) 12...Bxe3?! 13.Qxe3 c5 *(13...Nxc3 14.Qxc3 a5 15.Nd4±)* 14.a3 c4 *(14...Nc6 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Qxe4±)* 15.axb4 cxb3 16.cxb3± Qe7 17.Rfd1 Qxb4 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Rxd5 Rad8 20.Rad1 Rxd5 21.Rxd5 f5 *(21...Rc8 22.Rd4+-)* 22.Nd4 Qa5 *(22...Qe7 23.Nxf5+-)* 23.Qc1 f4 24.f3+- 1-0 Nunn,J (2590)-Murey,J (2485)/Brighton 1983/ (29) Nd2 *(24...Ng5 25.h4! Nf7 26.e6 Nh6 27.Re5+-)* 25.Kf2! Qb4 26.Qc5 Qxc5 27.Rxc5 Rd8 28.e6 Kf8 *(28...Rxd4? 29.Rc8+ Rd8 30.Rxd8#)* 29.Nf5 1-0 (29) Nunn,J (2570)-Murey,J (2500) Brighton 1983]

12.Qxe3 Nxc3 13.Qxc3 Qd7 14.Rad1

[14.Qc5 Na5 15.Nd4 c6 16.a4 Qa7 17.Qxa7 Rxa7 18.axb5 axb5 19.Ra3 Nxb3 20.Rxb3 Rc8 21.f4 Ra4 22.Rd3 g6= 1-0 (55) Wang,H (2713)-Zhou,W (2627) China 2015]

14...Rad8

[14...Nd8! 15.Nd4 *(15.Qe3 c6 16.c3 Bg4 17.Bc2 Ne6 18.Rde1 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 g6 20.Qg4 f5 21.exf6 Rxf6 22.Re3± ½* (51) Tomczak,J (2595)-Jakubowski,K (2459) Bydgoszcz 2022 *)* 15...c6± *(15...Nb7 16.Qc6!±)*]

[14...Rfd8 15.Ng5 h6 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.f4 Ne7 18.Qc5 c6 19.c4 bxc4 20.Bxc4 Qa7 21.Qxa7 Rxa7 22.Bd3 ½-½ (22) Klimkowski,J (2447)-Teclaf,P (2555) Bialystok 2022]

15.Ng5 Ne7 16.f4 Bf5 17.h3 c6 18.Qc5 Ng6 19.Kh2 f6 20.exf6 gxf6 21.Nf3

Qd6 22.Qxd6 Rxd6 23.Nd4 Be4 24.f5 Ne5 25.Ne6 Re8 26.Nc5± 1-0 Dolmatov,S (2615)-Sagalchik,G (2515)/Kemerovo 1995/ (31)

10.Re1 Wedberg 10...0-0 11.c3 Bxe3 12.Rxe3 Ne7

[12...Na5 13.Nbd2 Nxd2 14.Nxd2 c5 15.Bc2 Nc6 16.f4 f5 17.exf6 Qxf6 18.Nf3 Kh8 19.Bxh7 Bg4 20.Bc2 Qxf4 21.Qe2 c4 22.Qf2± ½ (48) Dvoirys,S (2577)-Simacek,P (2481) Pardubice 2007]

13.Nbd2 Bf5 14.Nh4 Nxd2 15.Qxd2 Be6 16.Rd1 c5 17.f4 d4 18.cxd4 c4 19.Bc2 Nd5 20.Nf3 Nxf4 21.Ra3± Glek-Gorelov/Katowice/1992

After **10.Bxc5** Nxc5 black usually gets convenient play. 11.c3

[11.Nd4 Nxd4 12.Qxd4 Nb7 13.c3 c5 14.Qf4 0-0 *(14...Na5 15.Bc2 h6 16.Nd2 Qg5 17.Qxg5 hxg5 18.Nb3 Nxb3 19.axb3 Kd7 20.Rfd1 Kc7 21.b4 cxb4 22.cxb4 Rh4∓* 0-1 (45) Hou,Y (2523)-Kortschnoj,V (2610) Paks 2007*)* 15.Nd2 Na5 16.Bc2 Nc4 *(16...Nc6 17.Ne4 Nxe5 18.Nxc5 Nd7 19.Nb3 Qf6 20.Qxf6 Nxf6 21.Rfe1 Rfc8 22.Nd4 b4 23.cxb4 Rc4 24.Rad1 Rxb4 25.b3±* 1-0 (56) Nisipeanu,L (2693)-Simacek,P (2495) Dresden 2007*)* 17.Nxc4 bxc4 18.b3 cxb3 19.axb3 a5 20.Rfd1 Qc7 21.Qh4 h6 22.Qg3 Rfd8 23.f4 Qc8 24.Qf2 Bf5 25.Bxf5 Qxf5 26.Qxc5 Qxf4 27.Rxd5 Rxd5 28.Qxd5 Qe3+= ½ (36) Mihok,O (2543)-Delchev,A (2492) Germany 2022]

[11.Nc3 d4 12.Ne2 Bxb3 13.axb3 Ne6 14.Qd3 0-0 15.Rad1 Qd5 16.Nexd4 Ncxd4 17.Nxd4 Qxe5 18.Nxe6 *(18.Rfe1 Qxd4 19.Qxd4 Nxd4 20.Rxd4 Rfd8 21.Red1 Rxd4 22.Rxd4* ½-½ (22) Carlsson,P (2501)-Grivas,E (2509) Wijk aan Zee 2008 *)* 18...Qxe6 19.Qc3 c5 20.Rfe1 Qc6 21.Re5 Rad8 22.Rxd8 Rxd8 23.h3= 1-0 (95) Adams,M (2732)-Howell,D (2479) London/Crowthorne 2006]

11...0-0 12.Re1 Na5 13.Bc2 Nd7 14.Qd3 g6 15.Qe3 Kg7 16.Nbd2 c5 17.Rad1 Qe7 18.Ng5 Nb6 19.Qg3 Nc6 20.f4 Kh8 21.Qh4 h5 22.f5+- 0-1 (42) Najer,E (2648)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Chess.com INT 2020

10.c4 d4 11.Qd3 dxe3 12.Qxe4 exf2+ 13.Kh1 Ne7 14.cxb5 0-0 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Nc3 Nf5 ½-½ (16) Zaitsev,I (2450)-Korneev,O (2590) Smolensk 1997

[95] **10...Ne7** 11.Nbd2 Bxe3 12.Qxe3 Nxd2 13.Qxd2 c5 14.c3 Qd7 15.Rad1 0-0

[15...h6 16.Nh4!?±]

16.Ng5 Bf5

[16...Rad8 17.Bc2! *(17.Nxe6* Wedberg *fxe6 18.f4±)* 17...Bf5! *(17...h6? 18.Nh7! Rfe8 19.Nf6+! gxf6 20.exf6+-)* 18.Rfe1 Rfe8±]

17.Bxd5 Qxd5 18.Qxd5 Nxd5 19.Rxd5 h6 20.Nf3 Rfc8 21.Rd6 a5 22.a3 Rab8

[22...b4 23.Nh4!? *(23.axb4 axb4 24.cxb4 Rab8! 25.bxc5 Rxc5 26.Nd4 Bd3 27.Rd1 Bc4)* 23...Be6 24.f4]

23.Nh4 Be6 24.f4± 1-0 (40) Hracek,Z (2530)-Krasenkow,M (2595) Brno 1994 1-0 (40) Hracek,Z (2530)-Krasenkow,M (2595) Brno 1994 1-0 (40) Hracek,Z (2530)-Krasenkow,M (2595) Brno 1994 Ftacnik,L: '+-' Ftacnik,L: 'Hracek,Z-Krasenkov,M/Brno (04)/1994/1-0 (40)'

10...Bxe3 11.Qxe3 Ne7 12.c3 Nf5

[12...c5 13.Bc2 0-0 14.Re1 Bf5 15.Nh4 Qc8 16.f3 Ng3 17.Bb3 Bxb1

18.hxg3 Bg6 1-0 Timoshenko,G-Korneev,O/Jakarta 1997/ (18)]
[12...0-0
A) 13.Bc2 Ng6 14.Re1 f5 15.exf6 Qxf6 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Ng5± Gligoric,S-Trifunovic,P / London 1951 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-8.de5 Be6 9.c3 Bc5 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik];
B) 13.Nbd2!?
B1) 13...Nxd2
B1a) 14.Nxd2 Nf5 *(14...c6 15.Bc2 Qd7 16.Nb3 Bf5 17.Bxf5 Nxf5 18.Qh3 Qe6 19.f4 g6 20.g4 Ng7 21.Nd4 Qd7 22.f5 c5 23.Nf3 h5 24.Ng5 f6 25.e6 Qe7 26.Nf7+-* 1-0 (36) Dvoirys,S (2550)-Korneev,O (2540) Novgorod 1995*)* 15.Qd3 c5 16.Bc2 c4 17.Qh3 Qd7 18.Nf3 h6 19.Bxf5 Bxf5 20.Qg3 b4 21.Nd4 a5 22.Rfe1 Ra6 23.Qf4 Bd3 ½ (69) Palac,M (2561)-Atalik,S (2632) Kusadasi 2006 24.a4 bxa3 25.Rxa3=;
B1b) 14.Qxd2 c5 15.Rad1 Qc7 16.Rfe1 h6 17.Bc2 Rac8 18.h3 Rfd8 ½-½ (18) Jaracz,P (2518)-Holzke,F (2485) Germany 2008;
B2) 13...Nf5 14.Qe2± Nxd2 15.Qxd2 c5 16.Rad1 Ne7 17.Rfe1 h6 18.h3 Qb6 19.Bc2 Rfd8 20.Bb1 Rd7 21.Qc2 ½-½ (21) Balashov,Y (2595)-Jussupow,A (2555) Toluca de Lerdo 1982;
C) 13.Nd4 c5 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Bc2 Nf5 16.Qe2 Qg5 17.f4 Nfg3 18.Qe1 Rxf4 19.Rxf4 Qxf4 20.hxg3 Nxg3 21.Nd2 Rf8 22.Nf3± 1-0 (40) Bologan,V (2589)-Kupreichik,V (2480) Minsk 2000]
13.Qe2 0-0
[13...c5 14.Bc2 Ng5 15.a4 b4 16.Nbd2 Nxf3+ 17.Nxf3 bxc3 18.bxc3 0-0 19.a5 Ne7 20.Rfd1 Qc7 21.Rdb1 Rfb8 22.Rxb8+ Qxb8 23.Rb1 Qc8 24.Rb6± White obtained clear adge. 1-0 Sion Castro,M-Fernandez Garcia,J/Elgoibar 1996/ (36)]
14.Bc2 Ng5?! This unfortunate retreat brings additional problems.In particular knight on g5 will be out of play.
[After 14...Nc5 White is only slightly better]
Certainly White doesn't change the g5-knight which will be reason of all following troubles. 15.Nd4! Nxd4 16.cxd4 f5 Black has to save his knight. 17.Nd2 Serious weakness has been created in the Black's camp and knight immediately gets going to b3. 17...f4 18.f3 Bf5 Regrouping his army Black is ready to cover the c5-square,but semiopen c-file is open for White's rooks that secure big positional advantage. 19.Nb3 Rb8
[⌓19...Ne6]
20.Bxf5 Rxf5 21.a4 White is opening another file for his rooks and strengthening pressure. 21...Ne6 22.axb5 Rh5? Black is staking his all.However he should submit with srategically bad position and to take back on b5.
[22...axb5□ 23.Ra6]
[≤22...Rxb5 23.Qd3 *(23.Rxa6!? Rxb3 24.Rxe6±)* 23...Rxb3 24.Qxb3 Nxd4 25.Qd3 c5 26.Rfe1+-]

23.Rxa6 Qh4 24.h3
[But not 24.g4? fxg3 25.Rxe6 g2! 26.Qxg2 Rg5 and Black on top]
24...Ng5 25.Rf2!+- 1-0 (30) Asrian,K (2575)-Nadanian,A (2410)/Yerevan 1999/ (34) Precise defence.White shouldn't scorn by Black's attack.Rook on f2 will be very useful. 1-0 (30) Asrian,K (2575)-Nadanian,A (2410)/Yerevan 1999/ (34) Precise defence.White shouldn't scorn by Black's attack.Rook on f2 will be very useful. 1-0 (30) Asrian,K (2575)-Nadanian,A (2410)/Yerevan 1999/ (34) Precise defence.White shouldn't scorn by Black's attack.Rook on f2 will be very useful. Ftacnik,L: '!'
[Inaccurate 25.Rfa1 could complicate the position: Nxh3+! 26.Kf1 *(26.gxh3?* is bad in view of *Rg5+ 27.Kf1 Qxh3+ 28.Ke1 Rg2-+)* 26...Ng5 27.Qf2 Rxb5∞]
25...c5 An attempt to fish in troubled waters.
[25...Qg3 also doesn't save: 26.Kf1 Nxh3 27.gxh3 Rxh3 28.Qd3 Rh1+ 29.Ke2 Rh2 30.Rxh2 Qxh2+ 31.Kd1 Qxb2 32.Rc6 Rb7 33.Rc5+-]
[25...Nxh3+ 26.gxh3 Qxh3 is similar to the game as including c5 and ♘:c5 changes nothing.]
26.Nxc5 Nxh3+
[or 26...Qg3 27.Kf1 Nxh3 28.gxh3 Rxh3 29.Ke1+-]
27.gxh3 Qxh3
[27...Qg3+ 28.Rg2 Qxh3 transposes to the game.]
28.Rh2 Rg5+ 29.Rg2 Rh5 Ftacnik,L: 'transposes to the game.' 30.Qf1 1-0 Asrian,K (2575)-Nadanian,A (2410)/Yerevan 1999/ (34) Covering first rank White wins easily.
[Taking in consideration that Black is lack of attacking possibilities White also could simply play 30.Ra7!? Qh1+ 31.Kf2 Qh4+ 32.Kf1 △Qh1+ 33.Rg1]

[96] **11.Nbd2** Bxe3
[11...Re8 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Bxe6
A) 13...exf3 14.Bxf7++-;
B) 13...Rxe6 14.Ng5 *(14.Bxc5 exf3 15.Qxf3 Nxe5)* 14...Rxe5 15.Qh5 Bxe3 *(15...Rxg5□)* 16.Qxh7+ Kf8 17.Nxf7!+-;
C) 13...fxe6 14.Ng5 *(14.Bxc5 exf3 15.Qxf3 Nxe5 16.Qe4 Qd5)* 14...Bxe3 15.Qxe3 Nxe5 16.Rad1 Qe7
C1) 17.Nxh7!? Kxh7 *(17...Qh4 18.Qg5! Nf3+ 19.gxf3 Qxh7 20.fxe4 Qxe4 21.Rd7; 17...Nc4! 18.Qxe4 Nxb2! 19.Rde1 Nc4)* 18.Qxe4+ Ng6 19.Rd3 Qg5 20.Rh3+ Kg8 21.Rg3 Qf5 22.Qxf5 exf5 23.Rxg6 △Re2 24.Rc6;
C2) 17.Nxe4 Nc4 18.Qg3 Rad8 *(18...Nxb2?? 19.Rd7)* 19.b3 Nb6 20.Rfe1?! *(20.Qc3 Rd5±)* 20...Nd5 *(20...Rd5 21.Rxd5 exd5? 22.Nf6+)* 21.Qg4 *(21.Qe5 Nb4!∞)* 21...e5 22.g3 c6 23.Qe2 Nf6 24.Rxd8 ½-½ (24) Tal,M (2605)-Kortschnoj,V (2625) Brussels 1987]
[11...Nxd2 12.Qxd2 d4 13.Bg5 Qd7 14.Rad1? *(14.Qf4!; 14.h3N Rfe8 15.Rfe1 Bb4 16.c3 dxc3 17.bxc3 Qxd2 18.Bxd2 Ba3 19.Bc1 Bf8 20.Bf4 h6 21.Nd4*

Nxd4 22.cxd4 Red8 23.Be3 Ba3= ½ (57) Schmid,L (2525)-Kortschnoj,V (2645) Luzern 1982*)* 14...Bg4 15.Qf4 Rae8∓ Ivkov,B-Fuderer,A / Zagreb 1949, YUG-ch / 0-1 (36)]

12.Qxe3 Nxd2 13.Qxd2

[13.Nxd2 Ne7]

13...Ne7

[13...Qe7 ½-½ (13) Palac,M (2573)-Lalic,B (2520) Lisbon 2000 14.Rfe1 Rad8 15.c3 Na5 *(15...Bg4 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 c5 18.dxc5 Qxc5 19.Rac1 Qb6 20.Rc3 d4 21.Rg3 Be6 22.Qh6 g6 23.Bxe6 Qxe6 24.Rh3 Rfe8 25.Qxh7+ Kf8 26.Qh8+ Ke7 27.Qh4+ Kf8 28.Qg5 Kg8 29.f4 Qf5 30.Qh6 f6 31.e6* 1-0 (31) Spraggett,K (2584)-Korneev,O (2587) Vila Nova de Gaia 2004*)* 16.Bc2 Nc4 17.Qd3 g6 18.b3 Na3 19.Bd1 c5 20.Qd2 a5 21.Qh6 f6 22.exf6 Qxf6 23.Qe3 Bg4 24.Qxc5 Bxf3 25.Bxf3 Nc2 ½-½ (27) Voekler,B-Beckemeyer,W/ BL9293 1993 (34) 26.Bxd5++-]

14.Qc3

[14.c3 '!?' c5

A) 15.Bc2

A1) ≤15...Bg4 16.Qe3 *(16.Qf4 Qd7)*;

A2) 15...Qd7! 16.b4?! ×c3 Rac8! 17.bxc5 Rxc5 18.Nd4 Rfc8 19.f4 *(19.Rac1 Qc7 20.f4 Rxc3! 21.f5 Bxf5! 22.Nxf5 Nxf5-+)*

A2a) 19...Rxc3!! 20.f5 *(20.Rac1 Qc7!)* 20...Rxc2!

A2a1) 21.fxe6 Rxd2 22.exd7 Rd8∓ 23.e6!? *(23.Nb3 Re2!)* 23...Rxd4 24.Rxf7 Nc6 Δ♖e4 25.Rc1 Rc4 26.Re1 Re4 27.Rxe4 dxe4-+ Δe4-e3-e2 △28.Kf2?! Rf8;

A2a2) 21.Nxc2 Nxf5∓ Δ♕c7;Δ♖c4! and Qc7;

A2b) 19...Nf5?! 20.Rac1! Δg4! R5c7! *(20...h6?! 21.g4! Nxd4 22.cxd4 Rxc2 23.Rxc2 Bxg4 24.Rxc8+ Qxc8 25.Rc1±)* 21.Bxf5! *(21.Bd3)* 21...Bxf5 22.Nxf5 Qxf5 23.Qxd5 h6 ½-½ Asrian,K (2440)-Kharitonov,A (2520)/Novgorod 1997/ (27);

B) 15.h3 a5 16.Rad1 b4 17.Ba4 bxc3 18.bxc3 Qc7 19.Rfe1 Rad8 20.Qe2 h6 21.Rd2 Rb8 22.Bc2 Rfd8 23.Red1 Qc6 24.a4 Bf5 25.Bxf5 ½-½ Balashov,Y-Korneev,O/Katowice op 1992]

[14.Rad1 c5 15.c3 Qc7 16.Rfe1 Rad8 17.Qg5 Ng6 18.Qh5 h6 19.Bc2 Nf4 20.Qh4 Ng6 21.Qh5 ½-½ May,J-Florjaneic,R/Triberg rapid 1991]

14...a5 15.a4 b4 16.Qc5 Qd7 17.Nd4 c6 18.c3 bxc3 19.bxc3 Qa7 20.Qa3

[20.Qxa7 Rxa7 21.Bc2 c5 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Rab1 Rf4± Lobron,E-Yusupov,A/ Sarajevo/1984/0-1 (33)]

[20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Qd6 bringt wegen Kf7! nichts ein]

[und 20.Qd6 ist ebenfalls harmlos: Rad8 △21.Nxc6?! Nxc6 22.Qxc6 Rc8]

20...Nf5

[20...c5 21.Nb5 Qb6 22.Bc2±]

21.Nf3

[21.Rfd1 Rac8?! *(21...Rfc8* war wohl genauer, da der andere Turm auf der b-

Linie Arbeit finden wird. Aber mein Gegner unterschätzte die weißen Möglichkeiten, auf Vorteil zu spielen.*)* 22.Rac1 g6 23.Ba2! *(* Mit der Idee ♗b1xf5. Nach dem sofortigen *23.Bc2* käme einfach *Nxd4 24.cxd4 c5)* 23...Qc7 24.f4 Qa7 25.Kh1 Rfd8 26.Bb1 Qe7 *(*Nach *26...Ne3 27.Re1 Nc4 28.Qa2 Rb8 29.Qf2→* steht Weiß zum Ansturm bereit. *)* 27.Qa2 Ng7 *(27...c5 28.Bxf5)* 28.Re1= ½-½ Pelletier,Y (2589)-Hracek,Z (2595)/Mallorca 2004/ (63) *(28.Qf2 f6!?)*]

[21.Nxc6 Qb6 22.Nd4 Nxd4 23.cxd4 Qxd4 24.Rfe1 Rab8=]

21...c5 22.Bc2 Rad8 23.Rab1 d4 24.Be4= Dvoirys,S-Korneev,S/Moscow op 1990/ ½-½ (51)

11.Nc3 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bxe3 13.Qxe3 Qe7 14.Rfd1 Rfd8 15.a4 b4 16.cxb4 Nxb4 17.c3 Nc6 18.Bc2 Na5 19.Ng5 g6 20.Rd4 c5 21.Rh4 d4 22.Qg3 d3 23.Bd1 Nb3 24.Nxh7 Nxa1 25.Nf6+ Kg7 26.Rh7+ Kf8 27.Qg5 Qa7 28.Bf3 Ke7 29.Bc6 1-0 (29) Gozzoli,Y (2569)-Noe,C (2471) Germany 2018

[97] In a recent game Black played **11...Na5** A favourite move of the Hungarian player Honfi, which is a very rare guest in the modern practice. It seems that Black is going to exchange the knight for the light-squared bishop, but in fact Black simply opens the way for the c-pawn while the knight will keep his intentions close for public. 1-0 Kotronias,V-Mamedyarov,S, EU-ch 6th Warsaw 2005/ CBM 108[Mikhalevski,V]. You can also find a detailed information of the earlier part of the game in there. 12.Nbd2

[12.Bxc5 Nxc5 13.Qe3 Ncb7 14.Nc3 c6 15.h3 Qe7 16.a3 Rfd8 17.Ba2 Nc4 18.Bxc4 bxc4 19.Ne2 c5 20.Ng3 f6 ½-½ (20) Ivanov,A (2555)-Sagalchik,G (2475) New York 1992]

12...Bxe3 13.Qxe3 A normal developing move. It seems, that 13.♘e1 or 13.♘d4, trying to exploit the akwarded location of the knight e4, would cause more problems to black. But after 13...Nxd2 14.Rxd2 c6!? It would be nice to play c5 at some point, but first Black wants to free the queen from defense of the d5-pawn. This line was certainly prepared at home. Black is going to activate gradually his pawn majority on the queen side. Earlier White tested other options. 15.c3 Mikhalevski,V

[15.Nd4 '?!' Mikhalevski,V This doesn't make much sense since c5 is Black's main idea. Qb6 16.c3 c5 17.Nxe6 fxe6

A) 18.Bc2! keeping the bishop was the only logical follow up of ♘d4xe6 manoeuvre. Nc4 19.Qh3! h6 *(19...Nxd2?* loses to *20.Qxh7+ Kf7 21.Bg6+ Ke7 22.Qxg7+ Kd8 23.Qxf8++-)* 20.Rd3 with initiative.;

B) 18.Re2 Nxb3 19.axb3 a5 20.Rd1 b4 21.c4 d4 22.Qe4 a4 23.bxa4 Rxa4 24.b3 Ra3 25.Rd3 Rf4 0-1 Kovacs,L-Honfi,K/Hungary 1965/MCD (25)]

[After 15.Qc5 he planned to continue

A) 15...Bg4! Mikhalevski,V 16.Rd3 Bxf3 17.Rxf3 Re8 18.Re1 Re6 19.c3 Qe7= 0-1 Klundt,K-Pribyl,M/Schwaebisch Gmuend 1996/EXT 98 (50) *(19...Qg5!?)*;

B) 15...Qc7 , not being afraid of 16.Bxd5 Bxd5 17.Rxd5 Nb7 18.Qc3 b4

19.Qc4 Na5]
[15.Ne1?! Mikhalevski,V Rb8! A nice idea to prevent ♘d3. Black prepares opening of the b-file by means of ♘c4. 16.Rb1 Nc4 17.Bxc4 bxc4∓ 0-1 Lepelletier,B-Korneev,O/Cannes 1994/EXT 97 (52)]
15...Qc7 and Black doesn't seem to have serious problems. '
[15...Rb8 16.Qf4 Nc4 17.Re2± f6?! 18.Bxc4 dxc4 19.Nd4 Qc8 20.Rae1 c5 21.Nxe6 Qxe6 22.exf6 Qxf6 23.Qxf6 Rxf6 24.Rd2± 1-0 (63) Hjartarson,J (2590)-Korneev,O (2540) Linares 1995]
16.Re1
[Earlier White tested 16.Nd4 c5 *(16...Rae8)* 17.Ne2 Rfd8 18.Rad1 Nxb3 19.axb3 and White's knight is superior to Black's bishop. Moroever White can force weakening of the dark squares by means of b4. a5? Black blunders a pawn in an approximately equal position. *(19...Rd7!?)* 20.Nf4 c4 21.Nxd5 Bxd5 22.Rxd5 cxb3? 23.Qa7!+- 1-0 Minic,D-Honfi,K/Vrnjacka Banja 1966/ (23) This beautiful tactical resource finishes the game.]
[16.h3 Rae8 17.Re1 Bf5! and Black looked ok in 1-0 Socko,B-Mamedyarov,S/ Warsaw 2005/CBM 108 (49) 18.Rde2 Be4 19.Nd2 Bg6= A very unlucky line for the Azerbaijani player. 20.Qc5 Nb7 21.Qa7 a5 22.a4± 1-0 (50) Socko,B (2583)-Mamedyarov,S (2646) Warsaw 2005]
16...Rae8 It seems that instead of concentrating on advancing the c-pawn to c5 Black rather thinks of the e5-pawn and the manoeuvre Bf5-e4, which he applied in his game vs Socko.
[16...Rad8?! Played according to the plan. But at this moment black could play 17.Rd4 A good move - the white chances are on the king side. Very often in positions almost similar to this one white used to sacrifice a pawn, playing ♗c2. But not here: *(17.Bc2 Nc4 18.Qd3 g6 19.Rde2 Nxb2 20.Qe3 Bg4!* - eliminating the white knight black achieves full protection of his king. *)*
A) Still after 17...Nxb3 18.axb3 c5 19.Rf4 white had a clear edge.;
B) Instead black had to continue 17...Bf5 having in mind then to play ♖de8 + f7-f6. I believe in this case he could equalise. 18.Rf4 Mikhalevski,V Bg6 and now 19.e6 is not dangerous. *(19.Nh4!?)* 19...Rfe8 20.exf7+ Bxf7 21.Ne5 Bg6= with an approximately equal position.;
C) 17...c5?! Played according to the plan. It would be more subtle to take on b3 first. 18.Rh4?! Wrong! 18. ♖f4 was much stronger. Bf5 Also here black could take on b3, although an intermediary 19. ♕d3 looked rather annoying. 19.Rf4 Trying to correct the mistake on the previous move.
C1) Correct was 19...Qc8! '?!' Mikhalevski,V. , presumably missed by both players, with a position which I would prefer to play black! Mikhalevski,V: 'doesn't help to leave the bishop on f5, but Black has a playable position after' '?!' Mikhalevski,V. , presumably missed by both players, with a position which I would prefer to play black! Mikhalevski,V: 'doesn't help to leave the bishop on f5, but Black has a playable position after' 20.Nh4! Mikhalevski,V Be6 21.Bc2 Nc4 22.Qd3 g6 despite weakening of the dark squares.;

C2) 19...Be4! Mikhalevski,V was a save continuation. 20.Ng5 Nxb3! *(20...Qxe5* is worse. *21.Nxe4 dxe4 22.Rxe4 Qd6 23.Re5±* and White is slightly better thanks to activity of his pieces and control of the e-file.*)* 21.Nxe4 dxe4 22.axb3 Qxe5 23.Rxe4 Qd5=;

C3) 19...Bg6? 20.e6± Here black has no time to take on b3, due to e6-e7. Rfe8 21.exf7+

C3a) 21...Qxf7! Mikhalevski,V was necessary. 22.Ne5! *(22.Rxf7 Rxe3 23.Rxg7+ Kxg7 24.fxe3 Kf6 25.Nd2±)* 22...Qb7 *(22...Qc7* loses to *⩤23.Nxg6 Rxe3 24.Bxd5+!+-)* 23.Qxc5 Nc4! and Black obtains some compebsation for a pawn. F.e. 24.Bxc4 bxc4 25.b4 cxb3 26.Rb4 *(26.axb3!? Qxb3 27.Qd4=)* 26...Rxe5! 27.Rxe5 bxa2 28.Re1 Qd7 29.Qa5 Bb1⩱ with compensation for the sacrificed exchange.;

C3b) 21...Bxf7 22.Qxe8+!

C3b1) Also after 22...Rxe8 Mikhalevski,V 23.Rxe8+ Bxe8 24.Bxd5+ Bf7 25.Rxf7 Qxf7 26.Bxf7+ Kxf7 27.Ng5+± Black's position is hardly defendable. *(27.Kf1!?±)*;

C3b2) 22...Bxe8 23.Bxd5+ Bf7 24.Rxf7 Qxf7 '?!' Mikhalevski,V. *(*I think that *24...Qd6* Mikhalevski,V would lead to a slightly better version of the game. *25.Rd7+ Qxd5 26.Rxd5 Rxd5±)* 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.Ng5+ Kg6 27.h4 h6 28.Re6+ Felgaer is playing this endgame middlegamelike, and it works. Kf5 29.Rxa6+- 1-0 (36) Felgaer,R (2636)-Kaidanov,G (2608) Khanty-Mansiysk 2005]

[16...Bg4! , thus exchanging his rather passive bishop for the white knight. Since 17.Nd4?! c5 18.Nc2? c4 would cost a piece.]

17.Qg5 White prevents Bf5 directly. 17...h6 18.Qg3 Nxb3!? Black switches to the initial plan.

[After the queen left the e3-square and the idea of Nc4 is not longer a threat the idea of 18...Bf5 is easily met by 19.Bc2 and White has a slight edge thanks to a misplaced knight on a5.]

19.axb3 c5 It seems that Black is in full control of the position, but next White's move shows that not everything is clear yet. 20.b4! White is fighting for the d4-square. 20...cxb4 21.cxb4 Rc8

[An immediate attack of the b4-pawn would lead to a similar to the game position after 21...Qc4 22.Nd4]

22.h3 White shows that he's not in a hurry and makes a useful prophylaxis. 22...Qe7 23.Nd4! White is ignoring the threat and preparing advance of the f-pawn. 23...Qxb4 24.Qe3! Now a threat of f4-f5-f6 is very annoying. 24...Rfe8 Shakhriyar is trying to create counterplay along the e-file. 25.f4 Bd7! 26.Kh2! And again psychological pressure on the opening. White improves his position saying try to do something versus my main plan with f5. 26...a5 27.Ree2 Protecting the other bishop White frees the queen. 27...Re7 28.Qg3!± 1-0 (37) Kotronias,V (2578)-Mamedyarov,S (2646) Warsaw 2005 Everything is ready for f5.

An immediate exchange on e3 **11...Bxe3!?** was tested by many good players

including Smyslov. was tested by many good players including Smyslov. Here is a recent example: 12.Qxe3 Ne7 Mikhalevski,V is the main alternative.

[The logical move 12...Re8 would not work out due to 13.c4! bxc4 *(13...Na5 14.cxd5 Nxb3 15.axb3 Bxd5 16.Nc3 Nxc3 17.bxc3* with the imminent threat c3-c4. *)* 14.Ba4 Nb4 15.Bxe8 Qxe8 16.Ne1 also with an obvious edge for white.]

[12...Na5 13.c3 *(*In case of *13.Nc3* Black doesn't experience any problems. *Nxc3 14.Qxc3 c6 15.h3 Qb6* and Black is OK. One of the games in this position finished very quickly in Black's favour after *16.Qd3 Rad8 17.c3 Nc4 18.Rab1?! f6! 19.Bc2 g6 20.exf6? Bf5 21.f7+ Kxf7-+* 0-1 Timoshenko,G-Vucic,M/USA 1990/EXT 97 (21)*)* 13...c6 14.Nd4 Qb6 15.f3 Nc5 16.Nd2 Nd7 17.Bc2 c5 18.Nf5 f6 19.Ne7+ Kh8 20.Nb3 Nc4 21.Qf2 Ncxe5 22.Nxd5 Bxd5 23.Rxd5 c4 24.Nd4 Rfd8 25.Be4 ½-½ (25) Al Modiahki,M (2581)-Kaidanov,G (2629) Moscow 2005]

⌓13.c3 Mikhalevski,V: 'A very rare continuation. White is intending to attack the e4-knight by means of Bc2 without exchanging it for his own knight.'

[Usually White challenges the e4-knight at once by means of 13.Nbd2 Below is one of the Classical examples.

A) ≤13...Nxd2 '≤' 14.Rxd2

A1) 14...a5 15.c3 a4 16.Bc2 Qd7 17.Re1 c6 18.Ng5 Bf5 19.Bxf5 Nxf5 20.Qd3 h6 21.g4 hxg5 22.gxf5 Rfe8 23.Rde2± 1-0 (39) Kobalia,M (2639)-Romanov,E (2520) Sochi 2007;

A2) 14...c6 15.c3 Qc7 16.h3 *(16.Qc5 Qa7=)* 16...c5 17.Bc2 Rfd8= Ivanov,A-Kharitonov,A/URS/1982/0,5 (29);

A3) 14...Nf5 15.Qc5±;

B) 13...Nf5 14.Qe2 Nxd2 *(14...Nc5 15.c3 Qe7 16.Nd4 Nxb3 17.N2xb3 Nh4 18.Qe3 Bd7 19.g3 Ng6 20.f4 c5 21.Nf3 d4 22.cxd4 cxd4 23.Nbxd4±* 1-0 (40) Abasov,N (2668)-Haba,P (2439) Austria 2021*)* 15.Qxd2 ♙c3, c2, b4 *(≤15.Rxd2)* 15...c6 *(⌓15...Qe7 △16.Bxd5? Rad8)* 16.a4 *(16.c3?! Nh4)* 16...Qb6 *(16...Nh4?! 17.Nxh4 Qxh4 18.Qc3* xc6*; 16...Ne7 17.h3)* 17.axb5 axb5 18.c3= 1-0 Balashov,Y-Smyslov,V, Tilburg77 with a slight edge for White in the game

B1) 18...Rxa1 19.Rxa1 d4 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Ng5 ♙ 22. e4 *(21.cxd4?! Rd8 22.Rd1 c5)*;

B2) 18...b4 19.Bc2 bxc3 20.bxc3 Rxa1 21.Rxa1↑ Rb8 22.h3 Ne7 23.Rb1 *(23.Qf4 Qc5)* 23...Qa7 24.Rxb8+ Qxb8 25.Qd4! ♙h7, c5, b4 Qb2= 1-0 (58) Balashov,Y (2565)-Smyslov,V (2595) Tilburg 1977]

13...Nf5 Mikhalevski,V: 'Pushing the queen from e3 Black frees the c5-square for the other knight.'

[A pawn sacrifice by means of 13...c5 14.Bc2 f5!? 15.exf6 Nf5 16.Qf4 Qxf6 17.Bxe4 dxe4 18.Qxe4 Rad8 doesn't seem to be sufficient for equality in view of a simple 19.Rxd8 Rxd8 20.Nbd2 Bd5 21.Qf4±]

[13...h6 14.Nbd2 Bf5 15.a4 c6 16.Nd4 Bg6 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.e6 c5 19.exf7+ Rxf7 20.Ne6 Qc8 21.f3 c4 22.fxe4 Qxe6 23.Bc2 Nf5 24.Qc5 dxe4

25.axb5 Rc8 26.Qd5 Qb6+ 27.Kh1 Ne3∓ ½ (41) Short,N (2635)-Jussupow,A (2615) Linares 1990]

14.Qe2 ♙c2 14...Nc5 Mikhalevski,V: 'After the following 15.Bc2 Black will have to move the knight from e4 so why not to do it in advance.'

[14...c6 15.Nbd2 Nc5 16.Bc2 Nd7 17.Nb3 Re8 18.Nbd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 c5 20.dxc5 Nxc5 21.h3 Rb8 22.Rd4± 1-0 Canizares,F-Villuela Arrollo,R/Aviles 1991/ (33)]

[14...c5 15.Bc2 Ng5 16.Nbd2 Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 Qg5 18.Nb3 c4 19.Bxf5 cxb3 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Qh3 Qxe5 22.Re1 Qf4 23.Qxe6+ Kh8 24.Qe3= 1-0 (51) Vachier Lagrave,M (2716)-Lagerman,R (2363) Kallithea 2008]

15.Bc2 Nh4! and Black was close to equality. Mikhalevski,V: 'A logical follow-up. Exchanging the knight Black will try to attack the e5-pawn by means of Nd7.'

16.Nxh4

[16.Nbd2!?]

16...Qxh4 17.Rd4 It seems that White prepares f4, however he has a hidden strong plan behind it. White is going to bring the knight to f3 which will be followed by Rh4. 17...Qh6 18.Nd2

[In case of 18.f4 f6 Black opens up the position in his favour.]

18...Rae8 Black is concentrating on the e5-pawn.

[18...f5!? with the idea to meet 19.Nf3 with Ne4]

19.b4! White prevents Black from putting the knight on e4 after a preliminary f5 and also takes control over the dark squares on the queenside. 19...Nd7 20.Nf3! g6

[20...f5?! would have nothing in common with the previous play. Black has to attack the e5-pawn by means of f6.]

21.a4! f6?! It wasn't necessary to sacrifice a pawn.

[Black had to protect the b5-pawn first and only then to challenge White's centre with f6. 21...c6]

22.axb5 axb5 23.exf6 Nxf6

[Now 23...c6?? loses to 24.Rh4 and the queen is trapped on h6.]

24.Qxb5± 1-0 Shabalov,A (2593)-Garcia,G (2453)/Buenos Aires 2005/ (46) White has won a pawn and has a clear advantage.

11...Re8 12.c4 d4 13.Nc3 Nd6 14.Bxd4 Nxd4 15.Nxd4 Bxc4 16.Bxc4 Nxc4 17.Ndxb5 Qh4 18.g3 Qh3 19.Qxc4 Bxf2+ 20.Kxf2 Qxh2+ 21.Kf3+- 1-0 (52) Balogh,C (2568)-Kortschnoj,V (2610) Paks 2007

11...Qd7 12.Nbd2 Nxd2

[12...Qe7 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Bxc5 Qxc5 15.Qxe4 h6 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Rd7 Rf7 18.Rd3 Qc4 19.Qxc4 bxc4 20.Rc3 Rf4 21.g3 Rxf3 22.Rxf3 Nd4 23.Kg2 Nxf3 24.Kxf3± 1-0 (53) Kobalia,M (2587)-Makarian,R (2481) Sochi 2021]

13.Rxd2 Bxe3 14.Qxe3 Ne7 15.h3 h6 16.a4 c6 17.Qc5 Ng6 18.Re1 Bxh3 19.gxh3 Qxh3 20.Qe3 Rae8 21.Rd4 Re6 22.axb5 axb5 23.c3 Nf4 24.Nh4 Rg6+ 0-1 (24) Bellahcene,B (2512)-Ivanchuk,V (2678) Europe Echecs INT 2021 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-8.de5 Be6 9.Qe2 Bc5 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

11...d4 12.Nc3 dxe3!?∞

11...f5!?

[98] **12.c4** Bxe3 13.Qxe3 bxc4 14.Bxc4 Qb8 15.Bb3 Qa7 16.Qe2 Rad8 17.Nc3 Nxc3 18.bxc3 c5 19.Bc2 Bf5 20.Bxf5 Nxf5 21.Rd2 Qb6 22.Rad1= ½ (37) Hansen,T (2444)-Mastrovasilis,D (2616) Krakow 2013

[99] **15.f3** Nc5 16.f4 Ne4 17.Nd2 Nxd2 18.Rxd2 c5 19.Nf3 Rad8 Mikhalevski,V: 'and with the control over the f5-square while preparing d4 Black looks OK.' 20.a4 Qc6 21.axb5 axb5 22.Bd3 d4 23.cxd4 cxd4 24.Bf2± Sokolov,A-Korneev,O/ Bad Woerishofen op (04)/1992/ 0-1 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-9.Be3 Bc5 10. Qe2 0-0 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[100] **11.Nbd2** Nxd2

[11...Bxe3 12.Qxe3 Nxd2 13.Nxd2 0-0 14.f4 f5 15.Nf3 h6 16.Rfd1 Rfd8 17.Qc3 Na7 18.Nd4 b4 19.Qd3 c6 20.Nxf5 Bxf5 21.Qxf5 Rf8 22.Qg4 Nb5 23.Rd3± 1-0 (49) Bartel,M (2482)-Korneev,O (2566) Nova Gorica 2004]

12.Qxd2 d4

[12...Bxe3 13.Qxe3 0-0 14.Rfd1 Rfd8∞]

13.Nxd4

[13.Bg5 Qd7]

13...Bxd4 14.Bxd4 Rd8 15.c3 Nxd4 16.cxd4 c5 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Qa5 cxd4 19.Qxa6 Qd7 20.a4±

11.Rd1 Rd8 12.Nbd2

[12.a4 0-0 13.axb5 axb5 14.Qxb5 Bxe3 15.fxe3 Bd7 16.Qe2 Nxe5 17.Bxd5 Nxf3+ 18.Qxf3 Nf6 19.Nc3 Bg4 20.Qf4 Bxd1 21.Rxd1 Rfe8 22.e4 c6 0-1 (22) Perez Rodriguez,L (2324)-Ivanchuk,V (2678) Chess.com INT 2021]

12...Bxe3 Postny: 'The exchange of knights probably gives black more chances to equalize.'

[12...Nxd2 13.Rxd2 h6 14.Rad1 d4 15.Bxe6 Qxe6 16.Bxd4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Bxd4 18.Rxd4 Rxd4 19.Rxd4 Qxa2= ½-½ Parma,B-Kortschnoj,V/Rome 1981/ MCL (29) 20.e6 fxe6 21.Qh5+ Ke7 22.Qc5++- ½ (29) Parma,B (2500)-Kortschnoj,V (2650) Rome 1981]

13.Qxe3 Nc5

[13...Qc5 14.Qe2 Nxd2 15.Rxd2 0-0 16.Rad1 d4 *(16...Na5 17.Rd4 Nc4 18.c3 Qe7 19.Bc2 c5 20.Rh4 g6 21.b3 Na3 22.Bd3 c4 23.Bc2 a5 24.Qd2 f6 25.exf6 Qxf6∓* 1-0 (47) Kryvoruchko,Y (2536)-Simacek,P (2500) Olomouc 2006 *)* 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Qe4 Qd5 19.Qxd5 Rxd5 20.Nxd4 Rfd8 21.Nb3 Nxe5 22.Rxd5 Rxd5 23.Rxd5 exd5 24.Nc5± ½ (47) Dominguez Perez,L (2658)-Bruzon Batista,L (2669) Santa Clara 2005]

14.c3 0-0

[14...Bg4 15.Re1 0-0 *(15...Ne6 16.h3 Bxf3 17.Nxf3 Na5 18.Qa7 c6 19.Qb6 Qc7 20.Qe3 0-0 21.Bc2 Nc4 22.Qc1± ½* (48) Anton Guijarro,D (2473)-Narciso Dublan,M (2544) Barcelona 2011*)* 16.Bc2 Ne6 17.a4 b4 18.c4 Qc5 19.cxd5

½-½ Geller,E-Larsen,B/Copenhagen 1966/Candidates (19)]
15.Nd4 Nxd4?! Postny: 'After this exchange white has stable advantage.'
[15...Nb8 16.Bc2 Ncd7 17.N2f3 c5 18.Ne2 Nc6 19.Nf4± 1-0 Karaev,M-Sepman,Y/Serpukhov 1999/ (38)]
[15...Qd7 16.f4 Ne7 17.Bc2 Na4 18.b3 Nb6 19.b4 Qc8 20.Rf1 c5 21.bxc5 Qxc5 22.f5 Bc8 23.f6+- 1-0 (35) Sasikiran,K (2688)-Kvon,A (2500) Helsingor 2017]
16.cxd4 Nb7
[The least of the evils for black is: 16...Nd7 17.Rac1 Nb6± 1-0 Winterstein,W-Mikavica,M/Zuerich 1991/ (33)]
17.Nf3± White obtained advantage 17...Bg4 Black is going to exchange his bad bishop, but this does not solve his problems. 18.h3 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 c6 20.Qc3 This is the sort of position, that black should try to avoid in this opening setup. Black's pawnstructure on the queenside is far from perfect and his pieces are passive (Nb7). White, however has a space advantage on both flanks. 20...Rc8
21.a4 Opening the "a" file for the following rook's invasion. 21...Qd7
[21...b4 22.Qd3 a5 23.Rac1± In some cases the manoeuvre Qd3-a6 will be very unpleasant for black.]
22.axb5 axb5 23.Ra7 Ra8 24.Rda1 Rxa7 25.Rxa7± 1-0 Akopian,V (2689)-Adianto,U (2591)/Tripoli 2004/ (43) White is clearly dominating. The ♘b7 is very bad and it's very hard to point out any reasonable plan for black.

101 **13.Nbd2** Ftacnik 13...Bxe3
[13...Bg4 14.Nxe4 dxe4 15.Rxd8 Rxd8 16.Bxc5 Qxc5 17.Bxf7+ Kh8 18.Qxe4 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Nxe5 20.Qf5 Nd3 21.Qxc5 Nxc5 22.Re1 g6 23.h4 Rd7 24.Bb3 Kg7 25.Kf1 ½-½ (25) Libiszewski,F (2500)-Mamedyarov,S (2733) San Sebastian 2011]
14.Qxe3 Nxd2 15.Rxd2 Na5
[15...Bg4 16.Bxd5 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Nxe5 18.Qe3±]
16.Ng5
[16.Rad1 Nxb3 17.axb3 c5 18.h3 a5 19.b4 axb4 20.cxb4 d4 21.Qf4 Bd5 22.bxc5 Bxf3 23.gxf3 Qxc5 24.Rxd4± ½ (38) Kuzmin,G (2540)-Kharitonov,A (2555) Berlin 1997]
16...c5 17.f4±

102 **13...Nxc5** 14.Nd4 Bd7

103 **14.Nbd2** Ftacnik,L: 'Ftacnik' 14...Nxd2 15.Rxd2 d4=

104 **15.f3?!**
[15.Nxc6 Qxc6 16.Nd2= *(16.Nd2* Ftacnik *Nc5 17.Nf3 Bg4∞)*]
15...Nc5 16.Kh1
[16.Bc2 Ftacnik Rfe8 17.f4 Bc8⇄]

16...Rfe8∓ 17.Na3 Bc8
[17...Na5 18.Nac2]
18.Nxc6
[18.f4 Ftacnik Nxd4 19.cxd4 Nxb3 20.axb3 c5⇄]
18...Qxc6 19.Nc2
[19.Bc2 Ftacnik f6 20.f4 fxe5 21.fxe5 Qe6 22.b4 Nb7 23.Re1 Nd6∞]
19...Nxb3 20.axb3 f6 21.e6!
[21.Nb4 Ftacnik Qe6 22.Qf2 fxe5∓]
21...Rxe6
[21...Bxe6 22.Nb4 Qd7 23.Rxa6±]
[21...Qxe6 22.Qxe6+ Rxe6 23.Nd4 Red6 24.b4]
22.Qf2 Qd6 23.b4 Rde8 24.Rd2 Ftacnik,L: '½-½ Kamsky,G (2710)-Anand,V (2715)/ Las Palmas 1995/ (38)' 24...Qe7? 25.Kg1! Re5
[25...Re2 26.Rxe2 Qxe2 27.Re1 *(27.Nd4 Qd3 28.Re1 Qg6)* 27...Qxf2+ 28.Kxf2 Rxe1 29.Nxe1 Kf7 30.Ke3 Ke6 31.Kd4±]
26.Nd4 Qd6∓ ½ (38) Kamsky,G (2710)-Anand,V (2715) Las Palmas 1995 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-8.de5 Be6 9.Be3 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

105 **10.Nbd2** Bg4
[10...Nc5 '⇄'
A) 11.c3? Postny: 'The alternatives do not yield White an advantage as well.' Nd3! Postny: 'This additional possibility became available only after white's inaccurate order of moves.'
A1) 12.Qb1 Ndxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bd4 f6 *(14...Qd6 15.f4 Ng4 16.Nf3 Qxf4 17.h3 Nf6 18.Ne5 Qg5 19.Qd3 c5 20.Nf3 Qg6 21.Qxg6 hxg6 22.Be5 0-0 23.Ng5 Nd7 24.Nxe6 fxe6-+* 0-1 (36) Zhao,J (2604)-Anton Guijarro,D (2666) Riadh 2017*)* 15.Bc2 c5 16.Bxe5 fxe5 17.Re1 Qd6 18.a4 0-0 19.axb5 axb5 20.Bxh7+ Kh8∓ 0-1 Frolov,A-Huzman,A/Uzhgorod 1988 (39);
A2) 12.Qc2 Ndxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bd4
A2a) 14...f6 15.Rfe1 *(15.Rae1 Qd6 16.Qd1 0-0 17.Qe2 Bf7 18.Bxe5 fxe5 19.Qxe5 Rfe8∓* 0-1 Klinger,J-Anand,V/Baguio 1987 (40)*)* 15...Qd6 16.Rad1 0-0 *(16...Rd8 17.Bxe5 fxe5 18.c4 Bg4 19.cxd5 Bxd1 20.Qxd1 c5 21.dxc6 g6 22.Qe2→* 1-0 Tseshkovsky,V-Kaidanov,G/ Moscow 1985 (26)*)* 17.Ne4 Qc6 18.Ng3 Bc5 19.Bxc5 Qxc5 20.Ne4 Qc6 21.Ng5 fxg5 22.Rxe5 Rad8 23.Qd3 Qd6 24.Rxg5 Qf4 25.Qe3 Qxe3 26.fxe3 Rde8= ½-½ Panchenko,A-Tukmakov,V/Tashkent 1980 (37);
A2b) 14...Ng4!? A very interesting novelty. Black decided not to suffer for the pawn, but to sacrifice himself and take over the initiative. 15.Bxg7 Qd6 16.Nf3 Rg8 17.Qxh7 0-0-0 Black has completed the development and all his pieces are excellently placed, which certainly compensates the lack of a pawn. White has to play very accurately in order not to get a under

dangerous attack. 18.Rae1 *(18.a4 Qf4 19.axb5 Bf5* and black is winning a piece. *)* 18...Qf4

A2b1) 19.Bd4! Nf6?! *(19...Bf5 20.Qxf7 Nh6 21.Qxe7 Qxf3 22.Bg7 Qg4 23.Qc5 Rxg7 24.Bxd5∞)* 20.Qd3 Bh3 *(20...c5? 21.Be5 Qg4 22.Bg3 c4 23.Qe3 cxb3 24.Qa7 Bd6 25.Qxa6+ Kc7 26.Nd4+-)* 21.g3 *(21.Ng5? Bxg2! 22.Qg3 Nh5! 23.Qxf4 Nxf4 24.Rxe7 Rxg5-+)* 21...Ne4 22.Ne5 Bxf1 23.Kxf1 Qf5 24.Bxd5 Rxd5 25.Qxe4 Qxe4 26.Rxe4 f5 27.Nc6 Bd6 28.Ne7+ Bxe7 29.Rxe7±;

A2b2) 19.Bd1 Bf6

A2b21) 20.Bxf6 Nxf6 21.Qh4 Rg4 22.Qh3 Rdg8 23.g3 Ne4 24.Qg2 Qh6 Black's compensation is obvious, but he does not have anything decisive. *(24...Nxg3? 25.fxg3 Rxg3 26.hxg3 Rxg3 27.Re2* and White gets too much material for the queen. *)*;

A2b22) 20.g3? The decisive mistake. 20...Rxg7! 21.Qxg7 Qf5! Probably this move was missed by GM Adianto. White's queen is trapped. 22.Nd4□ Bxg7 23.Nxf5 Bxf5 0-1 Adianto,U (2588)-Schneider,D (2466)/Minneapolis 2005/ (38) From the materialistic point of view, white's position is not that bad. However, in this endgame Black's excellent light pieces easily overcome White's rook + pawn.;

B) 11.Re1 0-0 *(11...d4 12.Bf4 g5 13.Bxg5 Bxg5 14.Nxg5 Qxg5 15.Qf3 Nd8 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Qxa8 Qxd2 18.Qa7 Rf8 19.Rf1 Qb4 20.Rad1 Rf7 21.a3 Qc4=* 0-1 (40) Ramirez Alvarez,A (2595)-Friedel,J (2505) Saint Louis 2014 *)* 12.Nf1 Nxb3 13.axb3 Bg4 14.Bf4 Bc5 15.Ne3 Be6 16.Qd3 h6 17.Rad1 d4 18.Qe4 Qe8 19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.Qxf5 Qe6 21.Qh5 Rfd8 22.Bg3 Rd5 23.Re2 Rad8 24.Ne1 d3! 25.Nxd3 Nb4 ½-½ Kaufmann,A-Schlechter,C/ Vienna 1916/ (40);

C) 11.Ng5 0-0 12.Nxe6 fxe6 13.Nf3 Kh8 14.c3 Nxb3 15.axb3 Qd7 16.Qe2 Nd8 17.Ne1 c5 18.Nd3 c4 19.Nc5 Qc7 20.b4 Qxe5 21.Nd7+- ½ (41) Firman,N (2513)-Mikhalevski,V (2523) Denver 2003;

D) 11.Bxc5 Bxc5

D1) 12.Qe2 0-0 13.c3 Qe7 14.Rfe1 Bb6 15.h3 Rad8 16.Bc2 *(16.a4 Na5 17.Bc2 Nc4 18.Nd4 Bd7 19.N2f3 Nxb2 20.axb5 axb5 21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Qxb2± ½* (36) Puranik,A (2604)-Das,A (2453) Castelldefels 2021 *)* 16...g6 17.a4 b4 18.Nb3 bxc3 19.bxc3 d4 20.a5 Bxb3 21.axb6 Bxc2 22.bxc7 Rc8 23.Qxc2 Rxc7 24.Ra4= ½ (54) Abdusattorov,N (2713)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2684) Wijk aan Zee 2023;

D2) 12.c3 Qd7 *(12...0-0 13.Bc2 Re8 14.Nb3 Bf8 15.Re1 g6 16.Nfd4 Qd7 17.f4 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Bg4 19.Qd2 c5 20.Nb3 Rad8 21.Qf2 Qc7 22.h3 Bc8 23.Rad1=* ½ (39) Sisniega,M (2530)-Milos,G (2530) Bogota 1991 *)* 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Rad1 Rad8 15.Bc2 Bf5 16.Nb3 Bb6 17.Bxf5 Qxf5 18.Nbd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 f6 ½-½ Handke,F-Marin,M/Andorra 2002;

E) 11.Qe2 d4 12.Bf4 d3 13.Qd1 dxc2 14.Bxc2 Nb4 15.Be3 Ncd3 16.Nd4

Nxc2 17.Qxc2 Nb4 18.Qe4 ½-½ (18) Fedorchuk,S (2660)-Szabo,K (2545) Haguenau 2013;

F) 11.h3 0-0 12.c3 Nd3 13.Bc2 Nxb2 14.Bxh7+ Kxh7 15.Qc2+ Kg8 16.Qxb2 f6 17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Nb3 Qc8 19.Qd2 b4 20.Nfd4 bxc3 21.Qxc3 Ne5= ½ (93) Kokarev,D (2628)-Paravyan,D (2433) Voronezh 2014;

G) 11.Nd4 Nxd4 *(11...Nxe5!? 12.f4 Nc4 13.Bxc4 dxc4 14.Nc6 Qd6 15.Nxe7 Qxe7 16.f5 Bxf5 17.Qf3 0-0 18.Rae1 Bxc2 19.Qg3 Bg6 20.Bf4 Ne6 21.Nf3 Qc5+ 22.Be3 Qb4 23.Qf2 Bd3 24.Ne5 Bxf1 25.Rxf1 Qd6 26.Qf5 Nd4 27.Qe4 Ne2+ 28.Kh1 Rae8* 0-1 (28) Yoo,C (2567)-Jones,G (2632) Chess.com INT 2022*)* 12.Bxd4 Qd7 13.c3 Na4 *(13...0-0 14.Bc2 Bf5 15.f4 Na4 16.Rb1 c5 17.Bf2 Rfd8 18.Nf3 Rac8 19.Bxf5 Qxf5 20.Qd2 Nb6 21.Rbe1 Nc4 22.Qc1= ½* (32) Jobava,B (2687)-Vidit,S (2693) Linares 2017 *)* 14.Rb1 c5 15.Be3 0-0 16.Nf3 Rad8 17.Qe2 Bf5 18.Rbd1 Qe6 19.Rfe1 h6 20.Bc2 Bg6 21.Bc1 Rd7 22.h3 Rfd8 23.Bb3 Nb6 24.Bc2 Na4 25.Bb3 Nb6 26.Bc2 ½-½ Tseshkovsky,V-Balashov,Y/Rostov on Don 1980]

[10...0-0 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Bxe6 fxe6 13.Nd2 Nxe5 14.Nxe4 ½-½ (14) Kobalia,M (2614)-Golod,V (2582) Biel 2005]

11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Qd5

[12.Bd5! Nxe5±]

12...0-0 13.Qxe4 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Na5 15.Rfd1 Qc8 16.Qg4 Nxb3 17.Qxc8 Rfxc8 18.axb3 a5 19.f4 Kf8 20.Kg2 Ke8 21.f5± 1-0 Gostisa,L (2405)-Rodman,F (2150)/ Slovenia 1996/ (36) Ruy Lopez Open Variation-9.Be3 Be7 10.Nbd2 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

10.Qe2 0-0 11.Rd1

[11.c3 Qd7 12.Nbd2 Nxd2 13.Bxd2 Bg4 14.Rfe1 Nd8 15.h3 Bh5 16.Rad1 Ne6 17.Bc1 c6 18.Bc2 Bg6 19.Nh2 Rae8 20.Ng4 Bc5 21.Kh1 Bb6 22.f4= 1-0 (43) Martinez Alcantara,J (2597)-Ernst,S (2515) Chess.com INT 2022]

11...Bc5

[11...Na5 12.Nd4 c5 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.c3 Bg5 15.f3 Bxe3+ 16.Qxe3 Qg5 17.Qe2 Qh5 18.g4 Qh4 19.fxe4 Nxb3 20.axb3 Rf2 21.Qxf2 Qxg4+ 22.Qg2 Qxd1+ 23.Qf1 Qg4+ 24.Qg2 Qd1+ ½-½ (24) Apicella,M (2505)-Gyimesi,Z (2500) Paris 1995]

12.c3 Bxe3 13.Qxe3 Na5 14.Nbd2 Nxd2 15.Rxd2 Nc4 16.Bxc4 bxc4

The dark squares (c5 & d4) are potentially weak, but White has to play actively in order to prove it, as Black will gain control over them after Qe7 & c7-c5. White employs a standard plan. 17.b3! Why does White undouble the pawns? Because he wants to open the a-file for himself and fix the weakness of the c5-square by b3-b4 & Ra1-a5 later on. After all the pawn on c4 was not weak.

17...cxb3 18.axb3 Qb8 19.b4 a5 Black does not want to suffer after Ra1-a5 but now is a pawn down. 20.bxa5 Qb5 21.Rda2 c5 22.Ra3 Ra6 23.Nd2 Rfa8 24.Rb1 Qc6 25.h3 1-0 Lau,R (2490)-Levin,F (2490)/Bad Endbach 1995/ (40)

[106] **10...Na5** 11.Nd4 0-0

[11...Qd7 12.f3 Nc5 13.f4 g6 14.Bc2 Nc4 15.Bc1 Bg4 16.Qe1 Ne6 17.b3 Nb6 18.f5 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Bxf5 20.Bxf5 gxf5 21.Nc3 c5 22.Ne2± 1-0 (42) Kevlishvili,R (2451)-Gareyev,T (2584) Saint Louis 2018]

[11...Nxb3 12.axb3 Qd7 13.b4 f5 14.f3 Ng5 15.Nd2 0-0 16.Bxg5 Bxg5 17.f4 Be7 18.N2b3 Rfc8 19.Nc5 Bxc5 20.bxc5 a5 21.c6+- ½- (76) ½ (76) Felgaer,R (2587)-Sorin,A (2509) Buenos Aires 2004]

12.f3

[12.Nd2 Nxd2 Retreating the ♗ is very natural, but as in the game Black solved his opening problems, maybe it's time to have a better look at 13.Qxd2 '!?' c5 *(13...Nc4 14.Bxc4 dxc4 15.Rfd1 Bd7 16.a4 bxa4 17.Qe2 Qc8 18.Qxc4 c5 19.Nf3 h6 20.e6 Bxe6 21.Qxa4 Qb7 22.Rd2 Rfd8∓ ½ (37) Bauer,C (2647)-Anton Guijarro,D (2651) Heraklion 2017)* 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Bc2 Nc4 *(15...g6 16.Qe2 Kg7 17.Rae1 Qd7 18.Qg4 Nc6 19.Bc1 d4 20.Be4 Rad8 21.Qg3 d3 22.Bd2 c4 23.h4±* 1-0 (38) Kotronias,V (2578)-Lopez Martinez,J (2488) Warsaw 2005 *)*

A) 16.Qe2 Nxe3 *(16...Nxe5 17.Bd2 Qd6 18.Rae1 Ng6 19.Qxe6+ Qxe6 20.Rxe6±)* 17.Qxe3 can transpose into Swiercz-Petrosyan. The position with the ♙ is deceptively simple, but White's attacking chances shouldn't be underrated: g6 18.Rad1 *(18.g3 c4 19.h4 Rf7 20.Kg2 Rc8 21.Rad1 b4 22.f4 Qa5 23.h5±* 1-0 (38) Swiercz,D (2649)-Petrosyan,M (2546) Minsk 2017*)* 18...Qb6 19.Kh1 Rf7 20.f4 Raf8 21.Rf3 Kh8 22.Rdf1 Qa5 23.a3 b4 24.Rh3± 0-1 (40) Najer,E (2648)-Fedoseev,V (2674) Lichess.org INT 2020;

B) 16.Qd3 g6 17.Bh6 Rf7 '∞' 0-1 (31) Becker,A-Bogoljubow,E Karlsruhe 1938 *(17...Re8 18.Qh3 Bg5 19.Bxg5 Qxg5 20.f4 Qe7 21.b3 Na3 22.Bd1 a5 23.Rc1 c4 24.Qg3 Rf8 25.h4 cxb3 26.axb3 a4⇄* Barbosa,E (2518)-Diaz Hernandez,H (2388) Lima 2018*)* 18.Qh3 Bg5 19.Bxg5 Qxg5 20.Qxe6 Qxe5 21.Qc6 Raf8 22.Qxc5 Nxb2 23.Bb3 Nc4= ½ (36) Dominguez Perez,L (2756)-Mamedyarov,S (2776) Berlin 2022]

12...Nc5 13.f4 Ncxb3 14.axb3 c5 15.Nxe6 fxe6 16.g3 d4 17.cxd4 cxd4 18.Bf2 Bb4 19.Qf3 Rc8 20.Rd1 Qd5 21.Qxd5 exd5 22.Rxa5 Bxa5 23.Bxd4 Rc2∓ ½ (56) Vachier Lagrave,M (2757)-Mamedyarov,S (2758) Saint Louis 2022

[107] **11...Re8** 12.Nd4 Nxd4 13.cxd4 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Qd7 15.Rac1 Rac8 16.f4 c6 17.Bc2 f5 18.b4 Ra8 19.a4 a5 20.bxa5 b4 21.Bb3 Rxa5 22.Rc2± 1-0 (63) Caruana,F (2630)-Kortschnoj,V (2602) Amsterdam 2008

11...Nc5 12.Bc2 Nd7 13.Nb3

[13.Bf4 f6 14.Re1 fxe5 15.Nxe5 Ndxe5 16.Bxe5 Bf5 17.Bg3 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Bd6 19.Nf3 Bxg3 20.hxg3 Qf6 21.Qd3 Qf5 22.Qxf5 Rxf5 23.Re6± ½ (90) Aveskulov,V (2544)-Reinderman,D (2543) Beijing 2008]

13...Ndxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Qxe5 Bd6 18.Qh5 Qd7 19.Bd4 f6 20.Rfe1 Bf7 21.Qh4 Rfe8 22.Bc5 Rxe1+ 23.Rxe1 Re8= ½ (35) Smirin,I (2675)-Vucic,M (2413) Rabac 2004

11...Kh8 An uncommon conituation. Black moves the king away from g8 in order

to prepare a retreat of the light-squared bishop. 12.Bc2 [Efimenko played against me 12.Re1 but I managed to equalize improving on the way Krasenkow's play in the game below. Qd7 An uncommon idea. A detalied information about the move can be found in Ivanchuk-Krasenkow/CBM77[Mikhalevski,V] 13.Nxe4 *(13.Qe2 f5 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Bg5 Bg8∓* Stisis,Y-Mikhalevski,A/ISR-ch/1992 *16.a4 b4 17.a5 bxc3 18.bxc3 Bc5 19.Bxf6 Rxf6 20.Ba4 Qd6 21.Nb3 Ba7 22.Nfd4 Nxd4 23.cxd4 Raf8 24.Rf1 Qb4 25.Qe1 Rb8∓* 0-1 Stisis,Y-Mikhalevski,A/ISR 1992/TD (54) 0-1 Stisis,Y-Mikhalevski,A/ISR 1992/(54)*; 13.Bc2 f5 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Nb3 Bg4 16.Bc5 Bd6=* 0-1 Sanchez Almeyra,J-Mikhalevski,A/Biel 1992/ 0-1 Sanchez Almeyra,J-Mikhalevski,A/Biel 1992/ (67) Sanchez Aleyra,J-Mikhalevski,A/Biel/1992*)* 13...dxe4 14.Qxd7 Bxd7 After

A) 15.Nd2! An improvement upon the earlier 15.e6 and 15.Red1. Nxe5 16.Nxe4± It's clear that Ehlvest prepared this idea at home. Now thanks to the better pawn structure and the weakness of the c5-square White is better. Now thanks to the better pawn structure and the weakness of the c5-square White is better. It's clear that Ehlvest prepared this idea at home. Now thanks to the better pawn structure and the weakness of the c5-square White is better.

A1) One correspondence game saw 16...Rae8!? 17.Rad1 Bg4 18.Rd5 *(18.f3* leads to not a very clear endgame after *Bxf3!? 19.gxf3 Nxf3+ 20.Kf1 f5 21.Nc5 Nxe1 22.Rxe1 f4 23.Bd4 Bxc5 24.Rxe8 Rxe8 25.Bxc5∞)* 18...Ng6 19.Bc2 f5!? 20.h3 Bxh3 21.gxh3 fxe4 22.Bxe4 Bd6 23.Bxg6 hxg6 24.Kg2 Rf5 25.Red1 Kg8= and Black equalized. ½-½ Onder,E-Roman,E/IECG 2002/Telechess CBM 99 (51) ½-½ Onder,E-Roman,E/IECG 2002/Telechess (51);

A2) Immediate 16...Bc6!? deserved attention.;

A3) 16...a5 This move took something like 40 minutes. During this long thought I was considering a number of moves, but couldn't find a clear way to equality. All my minor pieces and the a6-pawn get under attack and it's not easy to decide which one of them either one of the rooks has to be moved. So I decided to keep all the options open and to improve my pawn structure on the queen side. During this long thought I was considering a number of moves, but couldn't find a clear way to equality. All my minor pieces and the a6-pawn get under attack and it's not easy to decide which one of them either one of the rooks has to be moved. So I decided to keep all the options open and to improve my pawn structure on the queen side. This move took something like 40 minutes. During this long thought I was considering a number of moves, but couldn't find a clear way to equality. All my minor pieces and the a6-pawn get under attack and it's not easy to decide which one of them either one of the rooks has to be moved. So I decided to keep all the options open and to improve my pawn structure on the queen side.

A3a) 17.Bc5!? offering an exchange of the darksquared bishops also deserved serious attention. Rae8 *(*Of course not *17...Bxc5? 18.Nxc5)*

18.Bxe7 Rxe7 19.Nc5

A3a1) 19...Bc6 20.f4! *(20.a4 bxa4 21.Bxa4 Bxa4 22.Nxa4 Rfe8 23.Kf1±)* 20...Ng6 21.Rxe7 Nxe7 22.a4 bxa4 23.Bxa4;

A3a2) 19...Rfe8 20.Re3 *(20.Nxd7 Nf3+!? 21.gxf3 Rxe1+ 22.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 23.Kg2 a4 24.Bd5 Re2)* 20...a4 21.Nxd7 Nxd7 *(21...Rxd7 22.f4 Nf3+ 23.Rxf3 axb3 24.axb3 h6±)* 22.Bxf7 Rxe3 23.fxe3 Re7 24.Bd5 Rxe3 25.Bc6 Ne5 26.Bxb5 a3 27.bxa3 Rxc3 28.Re1 Rc5 29.a4±;

A3b) 17.Bf4 f6 *(17...Nd3 18.Red1 Nxf4 19.Rxd7±)* 18.Bxe5 *(18.Rad1!?)* 18...fxe5 19.Rad1± In all lines White is better.;

A3c) 17.Nc5 Bc6 And again it wasn't easy to choose where to go with the bishop. *(17...Bf5 18.Bd4 Ng6 19.a4 c6 20.h3±;* In case of *17...Bxc5 18.Bxc5 Rfe8 19.Bc2±* White is better thanks to a pair of bishops.*)* 18.Bd4 Ng6 *(18...Bxc5* leads to a stable longterm advantage for White. *19.Bxc5 Rfe8 20.Bc2 Rad8 21.Bd4 f6 22.Rad1±)*

A3c1) During the game I was concerned of 19.f4 but Black seems to hold again by means of

A3c11) 19...Rae8? is bad. 20.f5 Nh4 *(*or *20...a4 21.Bc2 Nh4 22.Rxe7! Rxe7 23.f6)* 21.Rxe7 Rxe7 22.f6+-;

A3c12) I also didn't like 19...Bd6?! 20.f5 Nh4 21.f6 g6 22.Ne4± *(22.Re7* is less dangerous in view of *Kg8)*;

A3c13) 19...a4!

A3c131) 20.f5 axb3 21.fxg6 *(21.Nxb3 Bh4 22.g3 Ne7 23.f6! Bxf6 24.Bxf6 Ng6=)* 21...Rxa2;

A3c132) 20.Bc2 Rfe8 21.f5

A3c1321) 21...Nf8 22.Rad1± *(22.Rxe7* is not dangerous in view of *Rxe7 23.f6 Re2! 24.fxg7+ Kg8 25.gxf8Q+ Kxf8⇄* with some counterplay. *)*;

A3c1322) 21...Bxc5! 22.Bxc5 Nh4! and Black obtains counterplay again.;

A3c2) 19.g3 White prepares an offensive on the kingside. 19...a4! Freeing the king rook from defense of the f7-pawn. 20.Bc2 Rfe8 21.f4 Bf8 *(21...Nf8!?)* 22.Kf2 Kg8! Bringing the king closer to the centre. 23.Rxe8 Rxe8 24.b3 Ra8 *(*White was hoping for *24...axb3 25.axb3±; 24...Rd8!? ⩤25.bxa4? Bxc5 26.Bxc5 Rd2+-+)* 25.b4 Bd5 26.Bd3± 1-0 (66) Ehlvest,J (2614)-Mikhalevski,V (2572) Minneapolis 2005;

B) 15.Red1 '!?' Interesting idea.See above the same one with black king on g8(12. ♘:e4) Rad8 16.Ng5 Nxe5 17.Nxe4 Bc8= Gurevich,G-Mikhalevski,A/ ISR-ch/1992;

C) 15.e6 Black seems to hold: Mikhalevski,V: 'Typical idea in these positions. White damages pawn structure in the rival's camp hoping to get slight,but long-lasting edge.' Black seems to hold: 15...Bxe6 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Nd2 *(17.Ng5!?)* 17...Ne5 Mikhalevski,V: 'This manoeuvre is also typical.Black is

trying to compensate drawbacks of his pawn structure by strong position of his knight.' *(17...Kg8?! 18.Nxe4 Rf5 19.Re2 Rd8 20.g3 Rfd5 21.Kg2 Rd1 22.Rxd1 Rxd1 23.Bc5 Bd8 24.c4!±* 1-0 Renet,O-Boudre,J/Clichy 1995/CBM 51 ext (40) 1-0 Renet,O-Boudre,J/Clichy 1995/ (40)*)* 18.Nxe4 Nd3 19.Re2± Ivanchuk,V-Krasenkov,M/Lviv 2000 c5 Mikhalevski,V: 'Most logical.Black has been straightening his pawn structure preparing to strengthen position of his knight. ' 20.f3 Mikhalevski,V: 'In fact only this move is new.Ivanchuk finds an interesting idea.He wants to exchange strong black knight while defects of Black's pawn structure remain.' *(*In one of my games White continued *20.Rd2 c4 21.b3±* Rytshagov-Mikhalevski,V/Donner memorial 1995. *)*

C1) 20...c4 21.Nf2 Rad8 22.Nxd3 cxd3 *(22...Rxd3 23.Bf2 Bf6)* 23.Rd2 Rd5 24.Rad1 Rfd8 25.f4

C1a) 25...g5 was interesting with the idea to support the d3-pawn or ctreate objects of attack in White's camp. 26.g3! *(26.Bb6?! R8d7; 26.fxg5 e5∞)* 26...gxf4 27.gxf4 Kg8 *(27...Bd6 28.Kg2 Rf8 29.Rxd3 Rxd3 30.Rxd3 Bxf4 31.Bxf4 Rxf4 32.Rd6± /+=)* 28.Kf2±;

C1b) 25...Bf6

C1b1) Immediate 26.Kf2!? was also possible,but allowed e5 trying to open the f-file.Now the idea introduced in the game doesn't work as after27.fe B:e528.Bd4Black takes on d4 with check.That's why White need the g2-square for his king! 27.Kf3 exf4

C1b11) 28.Bxf4?! g5 *(28...R5d7!? 29.Ke4 Re8+ 30.Kf3 Red8)* 29.Bc7 R8d7 30.Ke4 b4!;

C1b12) 28.Bd4! Kg8 29.Rxd3 Be5! *(29...g5 30.Ke4!±)* 30.Ke4 Bc7 31.Bf2 Rxd3 32.Rxd3 Re8+ 33.Kf3±;

C1b2) 26.g3± ½ (59) Ivanchuk,V (2709)-Krasenkow,M (2661) Lvov 2000 ½-½ Ivanchuk,V (2709)-Krasenkow,M (2661)/Lvov 2000/ (59);

C2) 20...Kg8! '!?' This is a novelty I found during the game. The point is to bring the king closer to the weak e6-pawn. 21.Nf2 Rfd8 22.Nxd3 Rxd3 23.Bf2 Kf7 24.Rae1 b4! 25.Rxe6 Bf6⇄ ½-½ (32) Efimenko,Z-Mikhalevski,V/ Biel 2001/ Black creates pressure on the queenside and forces a number of exchanges which lead the game to a draw. ½-½ Efimenko,Z-Mikhalevski,V, Biel MTO 2001.]

12...f5 13.exf6 Nxf6 14.Ng5 Bg8

[In the only preceding game Black played 14...Qd7 Somehow I don't like the idea of exchanging the light-squared bishop for the knight. 15.Nxe6 Qxe6 16.Nf3 Ne4 17.Nd4?! *(17.Qd3!?)* 17...Nxd4 18.cxd4 Rae8 and Black is fine. 0-1 Kovacevic, A-Golubovic,Z/Nis 1996/ (34)]

15.Nb3 Ne5!?

[15...Bd6 was an obvious alternative.]

16.Bd4 Nc4! was correct. Below you'll find variations which reflect a possible continuation of play.

[16...Nfd7?! This move is already dubious. 17.Nxh7!

A) 17...Bxh7 18.Bxh7 *(18.Qh5? Nf6-+; 18.Bxe5? Bxc2-+)* 18...Nf3+! 19.gxf3 Kxh7 20.f4! Qe8! 21.Qd3+ Qg6+ 22.Qxg6+ Kxg6 23.Be5! Rac8±;

B) 17...Rf4?? I've prepared this move in advance and played it almost without checking. It turned out that I had completely missed a beautiful reply. 18.Nf8!!+- Now it's over. The best Black can do is to play a pawn down in a bad position.

B1) Unfortunately 18...Nf3+ doesn't work in view of 19.Qxf3! and Black loses all his pieces. Rxf3 20.Ng6+ Kh7 21.Nxe7+ g6 *(21...Kh6 22.Nxg8+ Qxg8 23.gxf3+-; 21...Kh8 22.Ng6++-)* 22.Nxg6! Rf6 23.Ne5+! Kg7 24.Ng4!+- and Black is helpless. and Black is hopeless.;

B2) 18...Rh4 The only chance to prolong the game. 19.Nxd7 Nxd7 20.g3 Rh6 21.Be3 Bg5 22.f4 Be7 *(*or *22...Bf6 23.g4)* 23.Nd4 Bh7 24.Bxh7 Rxh7 A sad necessity. 25.Nc6 Qe8 26.Qxd5+- 1-0 Shabalov,A (2593)-Mikhalevski,V (2572)/Lake George 2005/ (39) Another pawn is gone. This was already a good moment to resign, but I was in the time-trouble and decided to play a few more moves.]

[16...Nfg4? doesn't work: 17.Nxh7! Bxh7 *(17...Rf4 18.h3! Bxh7 19.Bxh7 Kxh7 20.Bxe5! Nxe5 21.Qh5+ Kg8 22.Qxe5±)* 18.Bxe5 Nxe5 *(18...Bxc2 19.Qxg4±)* 19.Qh5!± *(19.Bxh7 Nf3+! 20.gxf3 Kxh7⇄)*]

[16...Bd6!? 17.Nc5 Qc8 18.Re1 Nc6±]

17.Rb1!

[17.Nc5 Giving up the b2-pawn doesn't promise any advantage.

A) Worse is 17...Qd6 18.b3 Qc6 19.Nd3 Na3 20.Ne5 Qd6 21.Bxh7! Nxh7 22.Qh5! Rf6 23.Ngf7+ Bxf7 24.Nxf7+ Rxf7 25.Qxf7 Bf6 26.Rae1 Rf8 *(26...Bxd4!? 27.cxd4 Nc2)* 27.Re8 Bxd4 28.cxd4± and White's rook is better than two disconnected knights.;

B) 17...Nxb2! 18.Qc1 Qd6! A nice tactical idea. 19.Qxb2 Ng4 20.f4! Bxg5! 21.h3! Bxf4 22.hxg4 *(22.Rxf4 Qxf4 23.hxg4 Qxg4 24.Bd3∞)* 22...Bh2+ 23.Kh1 Qh6 24.g5 Qh4 25.Bf5 Rxf5 26.Rxf5 Bf4+ 27.Kg1 Qh2+ 28.Kf1 Qh1+ 29.Kf2 *(29.Bg1? Be3-+)* 29...Qh4+= with a repetition of moves.]

17...h6 18.Nf3 Ne4= Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Kh8 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

108 **12.h3** Nxd2

[12...Bh5 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Qd5 Qxd5 15.Bxd5 exf3 16.Bxc6 fxg2 17.Rfc1 Rab8 18.b4 f6 19.e6 f5 20.Re1 f4 21.Ba7 Rbd8 22.Kxg2 Rf5 23.Bd4= ½ (51) Shankland,S (2709)-Areshchenko,A (2687) Krasnaya Polyana 2021]

13.hxg4 Nxf1 14.Kxf1 1-0 Smagin,S-Kotliar,M/Philadelphia 1989/EXT 97 (47) This exchange sacrifice can be considered, but should not be sufficient for more, than equality. 14...Na5 15.Bxd5 c6 16.Be4 Qxd1+

[16...Nc4 17.Qe2 Nxe3+ *(17...Qd7 18.Bf5 Qd5 19.Bf4 Nxb2 20.e6 Qc4 21.Ne5 Qxe2+ 22.Kxe2 Bf6 23.Rh1 h6=* 0-1 (60) Yoo,C (2550)-Brodsky,D (2496) Saint Louis 2022*)* 18.Qxe3 Qd7 19.Nd4 Qxg4 20.Nxc6 Bc5 21.Qe2 Qh4 22.g3 Qh3+ 23.Bg2 Qe6 24.a4 bxa4 25.Rxa4 Rfc8 26.Nd4±

½ (53) Bartel,M (2616)-Stefansson,H (2520) Terme Catez 2022]
17.Rxd1 Nc4 18.Bc1 Rfd8
[18...Rad8 19.Re1 c5 20.g3 Nb6 *(20...h6 21.Kg2 g5 22.b3 Nb6 23.Bb7 a5 24.Bc6 b4 25.cxb4 axb4=* 1-0 (59) Shevchenko,K (2633)-Vidit,S (2727) Chess.com INT 2021*)* 21.Kg2 Rd7 *(21...Nd5 22.g5 Nc7 23.Nh4 Ne6 24.f4 g6 25.Nf3=* ½ (47) Idani,P (2635)-Sindarov,J (2609) Sharjah 2022 *)* 22.Bf5 Rdd8 23.Be4 Rd7 24.Bc2 Re8 25.Bf5 Rdd8 26.Be4= 0-1 (62) Harikrishna,P (2719)-Tabatabaei,M (2623) Belgrade 2022]
19.Re1 Rac8 20.Nd4
[20.g5 g6 21.g3 Bf8 22.b3 Nb6 23.Bd2 Bg7 24.c4 Bxe5 25.Nxe5 Rxd2 26.Bxc6 bxc4 27.bxc4 Rc2∓ 0-1 (74) Caruana,F (2806)-Dominguez Perez,L (2758) Saint Louis 2021]
20...Bc5 21.Bf5 Rc7 22.e6 Bxd4 23.cxd4 Re8 24.b3 g6 25.bxc4 gxf5 26.gxf5 fxe6 27.fxe6 Rce7 28.d5± ½ (38) Maghsoodloo,P (2721)-Mamedyarov,S (2747) Germany 2022

12.Bf4 9:55 Bg5 13:43
[12...Nc5 13.Bc2 d4 14.Nb3 *(14.h3 Bh5 15.Nb3 d3 16.Bb1 Bg6 17.Nbd4 Qd5 18.a3 Ne6 19.Be3 Na5 20.Ne1 Rad8 21.Bxd3 Nxd4 22.cxd4 Nb3 23.Rb1 c5∓* ½ (47) Yu,L (2449)-Zhang,P (2605) China 2010 *)* 14...dxc3 15.bxc3 Qxd1 16.Rfxd1 Ne6 17.Bg3 a5 18.Be4 Ra6 19.h3 Bh5 20.Rd7 Re8 21.Rb1 b4 22.cxb4 axb4 23.Rd2 Bg6∓ 0-1 (62) Alekseenko,K (2639)-Najer,E (2663) Czech Republic 2019]
13.Bxg5N
[13.Nxe4 Bxf4 14.Qxd5 Bxf3 15.Qxc6 Bxh2+ 16.Kxh2 Qh4+ 17.Kg1 Bxe4 18.Bd5 Bxd5 19.Qxd5 Rfd8 20.Qc6 Qc4 21.Qxc4 bxc4 22.Rfd1 Kf8= ½-½ (36) Dutreeuw,M (2361)-Geirnaert,S (2343) Aalst 2005]
13...Nxg5 11 14.h3 1:04
[14.Qe2 Re8=]
14...Bh5 12:01 15.Re1 4:50 Re8 1:04 16.Kf1 5:41 Nxf3 17:52 17.Nxf3 10 Bxf3 16 18.Qxf3 19 Rxe5 3:08 19.Rxe5 8:25 Nxe5 8 20.Qxd5 5 Qxd5 8 21.Bxd5 5 Rd8 45 22.Bb7 1:21 Rd6 9:55 23.a4 6:17 Rb6 4:49 24.Bd5 1:56 Rd6 2:11 25.Bb7 2:53 Rb6 10 26.Bd5 1:25 Rd6 ½-½ (26) Bacrot,E (2695)-Lalith,B (2579) Grosseto Prugna 2016

12.Re1 Nxe5
[12...Nxd2 13.Bxd2 Qd7!?
A) 14.Bc2 f6 15.Qb1!
A1) 15...Bxf3? 16.e6 Qd6 17.Bxh7+ Kh8 18.gxf3 Ne5 *(18...g6? 19.Bxg6 Ne5 20.Qf5 Nxg6 21.Qh5++-)* 19.Qf5 g5 20.Qh3 Kg7 21.f4 Rh8 22.fxe5 fxe5 23.Bxg5 Bxg5 24.Qf5 Rxh7 25.Qxg5+ Kh8 26.Qxe5+ Qxe5 27.Rxe5+-;
A2) 15...fxe5 16.Bxh7+ Kh8 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Rxe5∞ was very sharp.;
B) 14.h3 Bh5 15.a4 b4 16.a5 bxc3 17.Bxc3 Rfd8 18.Rc1 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Na7 20.Bc2 g6 21.Qg3 Qe6 22.Bd1+- ½ (68) Caruana,F (2819)-Anand,V

(2767) Stavanger 2019]
13.Nxe4 Bxf3 14.Qxd5
[14.gxf3 dxe4 15.fxe4 Nd3 16.Re2 Qd6 17.Bd5 Nf4 18.Bxf4 Qxf4 19.Bxa8 Qg4+ 20.Kf1 Qh3+ 21.Ke1 Rxa8 22.Re3 Qxh2 23.Ke2 Qh5+= 1-0 (41) Svidler,P (2723)-Oparin,G (2652) Chess.com INT 2020]
14...Qxd5 15.Bxd5 Rad8 16.Bb7 Bxe4
[16...f5 17.Nc5 Bxb7 18.Nxb7 Rd5 19.Bd4 Nc6 20.Na5 Nxa5 21.Rxe7 Rf7 22.Re8+ Rf8 23.Re7 Rf7 24.Re8+ Rf8 25.Re7 ½-½ (25) Motylev,A (2668)-Matlakov,M (2710) Izhevsk 2019]
17.Bxe4 Nc4 18.a4 Nxe3 19.Rxe3 Bc5 20.Re2 b4 21.cxb4 Bxb4 22.g3 a5 23.Rc1 Rd7 24.Bc6 Re7 25.Rxe7 Bxe7 26.Bb5 Bd6= ½ (35) Svidler,P (2714)-Dominguez Perez,L (2758) Saint Louis 2021

[109] **13.Bd5** Nxe5 14.Bxe4 Nxf3+ 15.Bxf3 Qxd1 16.Bxd1 Bxd1 17.Rfxd1 Rfd8= ½-½ Geller,E-Kortschnoj,V/Curacao 1962/Candidates (20)

[110] **13...exf3** 14.Qxc6 fxg2 15.Qxg2
[15.Rfd1 Qc8 16.Rd4 Rb8 17.Qxg2 Bf5 18.Rf4 c5 19.Bd5 Rb6 20.Kh1 Rd8 21.b3 Be6 22.c4 bxc4 23.Bxc4 Bxc4 24.Rxc4 Rg6∓ ½ (40) Predke,A (2550)-Eliseev,U (2602) Kolomna 2016]
15...Qd7 16.Bh6! gxh6 17.f3± 1-0 Kasparov,G-Jussupow,A/Minsk 1979/URS-ch (41)
[17.e6 fxe6 18.Rad1 Bd6 19.Qxg4+ Qg7 20.Bxe6+ Kh8 21.Qxg7+ Kxg7 22.Bd5 Rae8 23.Rfe1 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Rf5 25.Bg2 a5 26.h3 Re5 27.Rxe5 Bxe5 28.Kf1 b4 29.cxb4 axb4 30.b3 h5 ½-½ (30) Mihok,O (2541)-Dragnev,V (2521) Radenci 2019]

[111] **15.Bxc6** fxg2 16.Rfc1
[16.Kxg2
A) 16...Rab8
A1) 17.b4 f6 18.Bd5+ Kh8 19.f3 Bf5 20.e6 Bd6 21.Rfe1 Rfe8 22.Bd4 Rbd8 *(22...Re7 23.a4 h6 24.a5 Rbe8 25.Bb7 Rxe6 26.Rxe6 Bxe6 27.Bxa6 Rb8±* 1-0 (64) Volokitin,A (2635)-Sargsyan,S (2488) Skopje 2019*)* 23.Rad1 Bc2 24.Rd2 Bf4 25.Be3 Bxe3 26.Rxe3 c6 27.Rxc2 Rxd5= ½ (42) Kamsky,G (2685)-Sethuraman,S (2624) Douglas 2019;
A2) 17.f3 Be6 18.Rfd1 f6 19.Bd4 Kf7 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.Ba7 Rbd8 22.Bc5 Be7 23.Bxe7 Kxe7= ½ (91) Subelj,J (2505)-Lenic,L (2633) Ljubljana 2022;
A3) 17.h3 Be2 18.Rfe1 Bc4 19.b3 Be6 20.b4 Rbd8 21.a4 Bd5+ 22.Bxd5 Rxd5 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra7 Rc8 25.Rea1= 1-0 (79) Adams,M (2718)-Fressinet,L (2624) Bastia 2005;
B) 16...Rad8 17.h3 *(17.a4 b4 18.a5 bxc3 19.bxc3 Be6 20.Rfd1 f6 21.exf6 Bxf6 22.Bc5 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Rb8 24.Bd4 Kf7 25.Be4=* ½ (51) Rasulov,V (2478)-Oparin,G (2652) Lichess.org INT 2020*; 17.f3 Be6 18.Rfd1 f6 19.exf6*

Bxf6 20.a4 Bc4 21.axb5 axb5 22.Bc5 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Bxd8 25.Be8= 0-1 (91) Vasquez Schroder,R (2441)-Oparin,G (2652) Chess.com INT 2020 *)* 17...Bd7 18.Bxd7 Rxd7 19.Rfd1 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 Rd8 21.Rxd8+ Bxd8= ½-½ Dvoirys,S-Wedberg,T/URS 1991/ (49)]

[16.Rfe1 Rad8 *(16...Rab8)* 17.a4 b4 *(17...f6 18.axb5 axb5 19.Ra7 fxe5 20.Rxc7 Bd6 21.Rb7 Rb8 22.Bd5+ Kh8 23.Rxb8 Rxb8 24.Kxg2 h6 25.Ra1±* ½ (51) Najer,E (2679)-Lalith,B (2587) Doha 2016 *)* 18.cxb4 *(18.a5 f6 19.Bb7 Bc8 20.Bxc8 Rxc8 21.exf6 gxf6 22.Bd2 bxc3 23.Bxc3 Kf7 24.Ra4 Bd6 25.Rh4=* ½ (39) Adams,M (2694)-Aravindh,C (2609) Khanty-Mansiysk 2019 *)*

18...Bxb4 19.Rec1 Bd2 20.Bxd2 Rxd2 21.b4 f6

A) 22.b5 a5 23.Bxg2 fxe5 24.Rxc7 Bf3 25.Bxf3 Rxf3 26.Rf1 Rf4 *(26...h6 27.Ra7 Rd4 28.Rxa5 Rg4+ 29.Kh1±* ½ (37) Bacrot,E (2715)-Gozzoli,Y (2592) Agen 2017 *)* 27.b6 Rb2 28.b7 Rf7= ½ (39) Vitiugov,N (2747)-So,W (2765) Wijk aan Zee 2020;

B) 22.e6 Bxe6 23.Bb7 Bc8 24.Rxc7 Bxb7 25.Rxb7= ½ (45) Caruana,F (2804)-Giri,A (2782) Paris 2016]

16...Rab8

[16...Rad8 17.a4± Keres bxa4 18.Rxa4 Be2 19.c4 Rb8 20.Rxa6 Rxb2 21.Ra7 Rb3 22.Rxc7 Ba3 23.Ra1 Bxc4 24.Ba4 Bb2 25.Bxb3 Bxb3 26.Ra5 Bd1 27.Rb5 Ba1 28.Rc1 Be2 29.Ra5 1-0 (29) Acs,P (2548)-Holzke,F (2485) Germany 2007]

17.a4

[17.a3 Be6 18.b4 f6 19.Re1 Rbd8 20.Bd4 Bd5 21.Bxd5+ Rxd5 22.Kxg2 fxe5 ½-½ (22) Vachier Lagrave,M (2775)-Anand,V (2764) Paris 2019]

17...bxa4 'N'

[17...b4?!

A) 18.cxb4 Rxb4 19.Bxg2 c5 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 Rxb2

A1) 22.Bf1 Be2 23.Rac1 g6 24.R1c2 Rxc2 25.Rxc2 Bxf1 26.Kxf1 Re8= ½ (37) Karjakin,S (2773)-Anand,V (2768) Saint Louis 2018;

A2) 22.h3

A2a) 22...Be6 23.Rc6 Rfb8 24.Rxa6 Rb1+ 25.Rxb1 Rxb1+ 26.Kh2 g5 27.Bf3 *(27.a5 Rb2 28.Kg1 Rb1+ 29.Kh2 Rb2 30.Kg1* ½-½ (30) Stefansson,H (2546)-Lomasov,S (2553) Selfoss 2019*)* 27...Rb4 28.a5 Rb5 29.Bg4 Bxg4 30.hxg4 Rxe5 31.Ra8+ Kg7 32.a6 ½-½ (32) Shirov,A (2664)-Brkic,A (2600) Batumi 2019;

A2b) 22...Be2 23.Bd5 g5 24.Ra2 Rxa2 25.Bxa2 Re8 26.e6 fxe6 27.Rxg5+ Kf7 28.Rf5+ Kg7= ½ (44) Fedorchuk,S (2621)-Inarkiev,E (2693) Mali Losinj 2019;

A3) 22.a5 Rfb8 23.Bf1 Be2 24.Rac1 g6 25.Bxe2 Rxe2 26.Rc8+ Rxc8 27.Rxc8+ Kg7 28.Rc6 Rxe5 29.Rxa6 g5 30.Kg2 h5 ½-½ (30) Karjakin,S (2752)-Wei,Y (2732) Chess.com INT 2020;

B) 18.Bxg2 b3 19.a5 Rb5 20.Ra4= 1-0 Iordachescu,V-Glodeanu,I/Mamaia 1999/ (34)]

18.Rxa4 Be6
[Equivalent is 18...Be2]
19.b4 Bc4 20.Bxg2 f6 21.Ra5
[21.f4 fxe5 22.fxe5 Rbd8⇄]
[21.Bf1 Bb5=]
21...fxe5 22.Bd5+
[22.Rxe5 Bd6=]
22...Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Rf6 Both players are not really care about the e5 pawn. 24.Rxe5 Rg6+ 25.Kf1 Bd6 26.Rh5= Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Bg4 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]
[26.Ra5?! A strange decision. Now white is fighting for a draw. Bxh2∓ 27.Rca1 Rg1+ 28.Ke2 Rxa1 29.Rxa1 Be5 Black is a pawn up, but his chances for a win are very low, because of the forced simplification of position. 30.Rxa6 Bxc3 31.Rc6 Bxb4 32.Rxc7 ½ (44) Sadvakasov,D (2523)-Kortschnoj,V (2642) Astana 2003 The position is theoretically drawish, due to lack of material.]

[112] **12.Bxd2** 'N!?' seems unnatural, Black equalized rather easily after nimmt dem schwarzen Standardmanöver die Pointe, stellt den Läufer aber auch auf ein unnatürliches Feld 12...Qd7 '!' von Sos Neuerung überrascht findet sich Ding Liren gut zurecht und wählt einen weiteren logischen Plan, der den typischen Zentrumsdurchbruch d4 vorbereitet.
[12...Na5 13.Bc2 Nc4 14.Nd4 *(14.Bc1 c5 15.Qe2* ist die weiße Idee. Die Stellung ist zweischneidig, doch sicherlich etwas besser für Weiß. *)* 14...Qd7 15.Bc1 c5 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Qh5 g6 18.Bxg6 Bd8 19.Bc2 Bc7 20.Bh6 Rf7 21.Rae1 Nxb2 22.f4+- 1-0 (37) Kulaots,K (2519)-Vocaturo,D (2621) Sitges 2021]
13.Re1!? Rad8 14.Bg5 '?'
[14.Qe2 d4 15.cxd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Qxd4 17.Ba5! Qa7! nebst dem entlastenden Manöver Lc5-Lb6 sichert Ausgleich 18.Rac1 Bc5]
[14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 c5 16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Rc1
A) 17...Qa7 18.Qf3 Rfe8 19.Bc2 Rc8 20.Bd3 g6! 21.h4 Draw offer.I was determined not to take it no matter what the position was. Qd7 22.Qf4= 0-1 (57) Predojevic,B (2566)-Atalik,S (2632) Kusadasi 2006 h5 23.b4? These pawns will not come back in the endgame. *(23.a4!?=)* 23...Bf8 24.Rxc8 Rxc8= 0-1 (57) Predojevic,B (2566)-Atalik,S (2632) Kusadasi 2006;
B) 17...Rc8 18.h3 d4 19.Qf3 d3 20.Red1 Bd4 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Bxe6 Qxe6 23.b3 Qxe5 24.Qxd3 Qf6= ½ (41) Adams,M (2742)-Muzychuk,M (2528) Baku 2015]
[14.Bc2 d4 15.Be4 dxc3 16.Bxc3 Bd5 17.Qc2 Bxe4 18.Qxe4 Qe6 19.Rac1 Rd5 20.b3 Rfd8=]
14...Bg4 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 ich weiß nicht, wieso der Us-Amerikaner diese Stellung anstrebte. Sein Bauer e5 teigt zur Schwäche, der Springer ist unangenehm gefesselt und der Durchbruch d4 liegt in der Luft. 16.Bc2
[16.a4 d4 17.Qd3 dxc3 18.Qxc3 Bxf3 19.e6 f5 20.gxf3 Nd4 21.axb5 Nxb5

22.Qe3± ½ (32) David,A (2580)-Vocaturo,D (2588) Milan 2015]

16...d4 '?!' strebt das entstehende Schwerfigurenendspiel an, das kleinen Vorteil sichert.

[16...g6! hätte die Spannung noch etwas aufrecht gehalten. Aktuell droh Schwarz den e5 einfach einzustecken.

A) 17.h3?! Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Nxe5 19.Qg3 *(19.Qe3 Rfe8 20.f4 Nc6∓)* 19...Rde8 20.f4 Qc5+∓;

B) 17.a4 d4↑ *(17...Bxf3 18.Qxf3 Nxe5 19.Qe3 Rfe8 20.axb5 axb5 21.f4 Nc6 22.Qxe7 Rxe7 23.Rxe7 Nxe7 24.Ra7⩱)*]

[16...Bxf3?! 17.Qxf3 Nxe5?? 18.Qf5]

17.Qd3 g6 18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Bf5 20.Qb3 Bxc2 21.Qxc2 Rxd4 der Rauch ist etwas verzogen und die schwarze Initiative nicht allzu beträchtlich. So sichert in der Folge problemlos das Remis. 22.Qc6 Qe6 23.Qxc7

[23.Qxe6 auch hier behält Schwarz etwas Druck fxe6 24.Rad1 Rfd8 25.Rxd4 Rxd4 26.Kf1 c5 *(26...Rd2?! 27.Re2 Rd1+ 28.Re1 Rxe1+ 29.Kxe1 c5 30.Ke2 Kf7 31.Kd3* bietet Schwarz nur Remischancen*)* 27.Rc1 Rd5 28.f4 g5 29.fxg5 Rxe5∓]

23...Rc8 24.Qa7= ½ (31) So,W (2775)-Ding,L (2778) Shanghai 2016

[113] **13.Bc2** Nc4 14.Qd3 g6 15.Bh6 The pawn-sacrifice is far from clear, but consistent.

[Black readily equalizes after the softer 15.Bc1

A) 15...f6!? 16.Nd4 Qd7 17.exf6 Bxf6 18.a4 c5 19.Nxe6 Qxe6 20.f4 Nd6 21.axb5 axb5 22.Rxa8 Rxa8 23.f5 Nxf5 24.Qxb5 Ne3 25.Bxe3 Qxe3+ 26.Kh1 Bg5= Beth,N (2145)-Vuillemin,G (2178) email 2010;

B) 15...Qd7 16.Re1

B1) 16...c5 17.b3 Bf5 *(17...Nb6 18.Qd2 Bf5 19.Bxf5 Qxf5 20.Qh6 Rfe8 21.Ng5 Bxg5 22.Qxg5 Qxg5 23.Bxg5 a5∓* ½ (70) Dvoirys,S (2534)-Sutovsky,E (2648) Israel 2007 *24.f4 b4∓* ½ (70) Dvoirys,S (2534)-Sutovsky,E (2648) Israel 2007*)* 18.Qe2 Na5 19.Bg5 Bxc2 20.Qxc2 Nc6 21.Rad1 Rad8 22.Qc1 Rfe8 23.Qf4 Qf5 24.Qxf5 gxf5± 1-0 (35) Shirov,A (2652)-De Jong,J (2438) Netherlands 2021 25.h4 Kg7 26.e6 f6= 1-0 (35) Shirov,A (2652)-De Jong,J (2438) Netherlands 2021;

B2) 16...a5 17.Nd4 a4 18.Qe2 Bg4 19.f3 Be6 20.Bd3 c5 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Rb1 Rab8= 0-1 (53) Alekseenko,K (2638)-Anton Guijarro,D (2642) St Petersburg 2018;

C) 15...Bf5 16.Qe2 Bxc2 17.Qxc2 f6 18.Bh6 *(18.e6 Re8 19.b3 Ne5 20.Nd4 Bc5 21.Kh1 Qd6 22.Bf4 Qb6 23.Rfe1 Bxd4 24.cxd4 Nc6 25.Qc3 b4 26.Qd2 Nd8 27.e7 Ne6 28.Be3 Rxe7∓* Korneev,O (2465)-Haba,P (2515) Bad Woerishofen 1992*)* 18...Re8 19.Rae1 fxe5 20.Nxe5 Nxe5 21.Rxe5 Bf6 22.Rxe8+ Qxe8 23.Be3 Qe6 24.Ra1 Re8 25.h3 Qe4= 26.Qd2 Be7 27.Bf4 Bd8 28.Be3 Be7 29.Bf4 Bd8 30.Be3 ½, Doehner,H (2252)-Richter,W (2036) email 2009]

15...Nxb2
[15...Re8 16.b3 Na3 *(16...Bf5 17.Qe2 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Nb6 19.Rfe1 c5 20.Rad1 Rc8 21.Qd2 Rc6 22.h4 Re6 23.Qf4 Qc7 24.Qg4 a5 25.a3 Qb7 26.h5∞ /±*, Aronin,L-Milev,Z Moscow (Central CC) 1959 *)* 17.Bd1 Bf5 18.Qd2 c5 19.Be2 Qb6 20.Qb2 *(20.Rad1!?±)* 20...b4 21.cxb4
A) 21...Qxb4!? 22.e6 f6 23.Rad1 *(23.Bd2? Qe4∓)* 23...Nb5 24.Rxd5 Bxe6=;
B) 21...cxb4 22.Nd4 Be4 23.Be3 Bc5 24.Rac1 Rac8 25.Rfd1±]
16.Qe2
[16.Qe3 Nc4 17.Qf4 Re8 'N' furchtlos - Weiß hat Kompensation, aber ob diese ausreicht ist bezweifelbar *(17...f6 18.Bxf8 Qxf8 19.Nd4±* 1-0 (47) Psakhis,L (2545)-Zaitsev,I (2465) Yerevan 1982*)* 18.Ng5 Qd7∓ gives White nothing concrete.]
16...Re8 17.Nd4 After some thought Topalov plays the main move.
[Regaining the pawn 17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.Qxb2 can hardly give White any objective advantage, although he outplayed his opponent after Bg4 *(18...c5* is more natural, preparing b4 with ⟪ counterplay. *)* 19.Nd4 Bf8? *(* A misguided swap, Black still has a reasonable position after *19...Qd7∞)* 20.Bxf8 Rxf8 21.Qb4 Qd7 22.Rfe1 Rfe8 23.Re3 Be6 24.f4 Rac8 25.Qc5 c6 26.a4± Van Haastert,E (2429)-Vedder,R (2261) Netherlands 2015]
17...Bd7 White's large plus score in this line stems mainly from pre-computer times; objectively speaking Black's defensive resources seem sufficient.
[17...Bf8 18.Bxf8 Rxf8 19.f4 *(19.Bxg6 hxg6 20.Qxb2 c5 21.Ne2 Qc7 22.f4* Seibold,M-Duehrssen,R ICCF corr 1935 *f6!?⇄)* 19...c5 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Bxg6 hxg6 22.Qxb2 Rb8 23.Rad1 Qb6 24.Qc2 Kg7 25.Rf3 c4+ 26.Kh1 b4 27.Rg3 Rf5 28.Rxg6+ Kxg6 29.g4 Qe3 30.gxf5+ Kh6 31.Qg2 Rg8!= Romanovsky,P-Tolush,A Leningrad 1938]
[Weaker is 17...Qd7 18.f4 Bg4 *(18...f5 19.g4 Bc5 20.gxf5 gxf5 21.Kh1 Bf8 22.Qh5 Qf7 23.Rg1+ Kh8 24.Qh3 Bxh6 25.Qxh6 c5 26.Nxf5 Bxf5 27.Bxf5+-* Baczynskyj,B (2370)-Bellin,R (2415) London 1978*)* 19.Qf2 c5 20.f5 Bf8 21.Bxf8 Rxf8 22.Nb3!↑ *(22.Qf4 cxd4 23.Qxg4 d3 24.Bb3 Nc4 25.Qd4 Qa7∓* Foldi,K (2202)-Fordan,T (2211) Hungary 2010 *)*]
[17...Bc5 18.Bxg6 hxg6 19.Qxb2 Qh4 20.Qd2 Qh5 21.Rfe1 Bd7 22.Bg5 1-0 (22) Kokarev,D (2601)-Khanin,S (2503) Khanty-Mansiysk 2019]
18.f4 c5 Black is in no hurry to return with his ♘ and pursues his own play instead. Indeed, the ♘b2 will remain on its post until move 24.
[18...Nc4 19.Rae1 c5 20.e6 Yates,F-Gunsberg,I Chester/ Cheshire 1914 Although Black quickly got routed in this game, his defence can be improved with cxd4 21.f5 Bxe6 22.fxe6 f5! 23.Bxf5 Bc5 24.cxd4 Bxd4+ 25.Kh1 Qh4!∓]
19.Nf3 Qb6 20.Qf2
[Black's last move took the sting out of the impending pawn advance - after 20.f5 gxf5 *(* or *20...Bxf5* his ♕ joins the defence, attacking the ♗h6. *)*]
20...d4!? A novelty in the spirit of the previous note - Shakh is not worried about

White's attack and furthers his own queenside ambitions.

[20...Nc4 21.Rae1 Bd8 22.Ng5 Na3 23.e6 Rxe6! *(23...fxe6 24.f5! exf5 25.Bxf5 gxf5 26.Qxf5!+-)* 24.Nxe6 fxe6 25.f5 *(25.Bxg6 hxg6 26.Qg3 Kh7 27.Qh3 Kg8 28.Qg3=)* 25...exf5 26.Qg3 Bc7 27.Qh4 Bd8 28.Qg3 Bc7 29.Qh4 ½, Haznedaroglu,K (1990)-Wojcik,W (2185) email 2006]

21.Bg5 To further his attack, White must get access to h4, possibly swapping the dark-squared bishop.

[Moves as 21.Be4 dxc3 22.Bxa8 Rxa8∓]

[or 21.cxd4 cxd4 22.Be4 Nc4 23.Bxa8 Rxa8↑ pass the initiative unequivocally to Black.]

21...dxc3 Black again opts for the most principled move, increasing his material plus.

[21...d3 22.Bxe7 *(22.Bb3!?* is maybe even stronger, limiting Black's options*)* 22...dxc2 *(22...Rxe7 23.Bb3 Na4 24.Bxa4 bxa4 25.Nd2 f5 26.Nc4 Qe6 27.Nd6≌)* 23.Bxc5 Qc7 24.Bb6 Qb7 25.Bd4 Bf5 26.Qh4⇄ Although the ♙c2 is strong, Black's ♔ is seriously vulnerable.]

22.Qh4

[Now there will be no ♗-swap, but Black beats off the attack after 22.Bxe7 Rxe7

A) 23.Qh4 Rae8 24.Ng5 c4+ 25.Kh1 f5-+;

B) 23.f5 Bxf5 24.Bxf5 gxf5 25.Nh4 Nd3! 26.Qg3+ *(26.Qxf5 c4+ 27.Kh1 Kh8-+)* 26...Kh8 27.Nxf5 c4+ 28.Kh1 Rg8-+;

C) ⌓23.Ng5 f5!? 24.Qf3 Rd8 25.Qxc3 h6 26.Nf3 Nc4 27.Bb3 Be6∓]

22...c4+ Tempting, but Black could have also considered keeping c4 free for his knight to rejoin the defence.

[An unforced sample line is 22...Bf8!? 23.Be4 Bc6 24.Bxc6 Qxc6 25.f5 Nc4 26.e6 Ra7 Δ 27.Bf6 Ne3 28.exf7+ Rxf7 29.fxg6 with the beautiful resource Rg7! 30.gxh7+ *(30.Bxg7 Qxg6-+)* 30...Rxh7 31.Qg5+ Bg7∓]

23.Kh1 Bf8 24.f5?! Now Black shuts out the ♗c2.

[Stronger 24.Be4! with unclear consequences: f5 *(24...Bc6 25.Bxc6 Qxc6 26.f5≌* can be really dangerous - the ♘ can't go to c4 anymore. *)* 25.exf6 *(25.Bxa8 Rxa8∓)* 25...Rxe4 26.f7+ Kg7□ 27.Bh6+ Kxf7 28.Ng5+ Kg8 29.Nxe4 Bxh6 30.Nf6+ *(30.Qxh6 Bf5 31.Nxc3 Nd3∓)* 30...Kh8 31.Nxd7 Qd8 32.Qh3!? Nd3 33.Ne5∞]

24...Nd3∓ 1-0 (42) Topalov,V (2749)-Mamedyarov,S (2814) Shamkir 2018

Other moves give Black reasonable counterplay after recapturing on c4 with the b-pawn: **13.Bg5** Nc4 14.Bxc4 bxc4

[14...dxc4 15.Qxd8 Bxd8 16.Rad1 h6 17.Bxd8 Rfxd8 18.Nd4 Bd7 19.f4 c5 20.Nf3 Bf5 21.Kf2 Kf8 22.h3= 0-1 (52) Wagner,D (2569)-Suleymanli,A (2541) Chess.com INT 2022]

15.b4 cxb3 16.axb3 a5

[16...c5 17.h3 Bxg5 18.Nxg5 h6 19.Nf3 Qb6 20.b4 cxb4 21.cxb4 Rfc8 22.Ra5 Rab8 23.Rfa1 Qxb4 24.Qxb4 Rxb4 25.Rxa6= ½ (33) Navara,D (2700)-Seel,C (2486) Germany 2022]

17.Ra4 Bxg5 18.Nxg5 h6 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Rfa1 Rb8 21.R1a3 c5 22.h3 Qc7

23.f4 Rb5 24.Kh2 Qb6 25.Qd1 Qc6 26.Ra2 Kh8 27.Qg4 Rxb3 28.Rxa5± ½ (40) Yu,Y (2738)-Najer,E (2659) Moscow 2017

13.Rfd1 Nc4 14.Bxc4 bxc4 15.b4

[15.Nd4 Qd7 16.f4 c5 17.Nf3 Rfb8 18.Qf2 Rb5 19.b3 cxb3 20.c4 b2 21.Rab1 Rb7 22.cxd5 Bxd5 23.Bxc5 Hunt,A (2288)-Naes,F (2222) Port Erin 1999 Qb5! 24.Bxe7 Bxa2 25.Ba3 Qb3 26.Bxb2 Bxb1 27.Rxb1 Rab8∓]

15...cxb3 16.axb3 a5 17.Bg5 c5 18.Ra4 d4 19.Ra3 Bxg5 20.Nxg5 dxc3 21.Qc1 Qe7 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Qxc3 Rfd8 24.Rda1 Rd5⇄ ½ (37) Navara,D (2708)-Polgar,J (2682) Prague 2010

13.h3 Nc4 14.Qe2 Nxe3 15.Qxe3 Qd7 16.Rad1 c6 17.Nd4 c5 18.Nf3 Rad8 19.Rd2 Qc6 20.Rfd1 Rd7 21.Bc2 g6 22.Qh6 Rfd8= 1-0 (35) Shchekachev,A (2510)-Gagunashvili,M (2556) Santiago de Compostela 2022

13.Rad1 Nc4 14.Bxc4 dxc4 15.Nd4 Bd7 16.Qc2 Qc8 17.Qe4 c5 18.Nf3 Bf5 19.Qf4 Bd3 20.Rfe1 h6 21.Qg3 Qe6 22.b3 Rad8 23.bxc4 Bxc4 24.a3 a5 25.Nd2 Bd3 26.Nb3 Qxb3 27.Bxh6 Bg6 28.Rxd8 Rxd8 0-1 (28) Al Modiahki,M (2542)-Anton Guijarro,D (2666) Riadh 2017

[114] **15.Qc2** Qc8 16.Bg5 Bf5 17.Qc1 Bc5 18.Nh4 Bd3 19.Qf4 h6 20.Bf6 gxf6 21.exf6 Kh7 22.Re7 Bd6-+ 0-1 (29) Wagner,D (2578)-Yilmaz,M (2626) Chess.com INT 2021 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Nd2 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[115] **13.a4** Qd7 14.Re1! 'N!' A typical push to emphasize Black's defects in the queenside pawn structure. 14...Ng4

[14...Bg4 15.h3 Bh5 16.axb5 axb5 17.Ne4 Rad8 18.Ng3 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Ne5 20.Qf5 Nc4 21.Bd4 Rf7 22.Bc2± ½ (29) Smirnov,P (2624)-Krasenkow,M (2672) Warsaw 2005 g6 23.Qxd7 Nxd7 24.b4 Bd6 25.h4 Re7 26.h5 Rxe1+ 27.Rxe1 Kf7 28.hxg6+ hxg6 29.f4 ½-½ (29) Smirnov,P (2624)-Krasenkow,M (2672) Warsaw 2005]

[14...Kh8?! 15.Qe2

A) 15...Na5 16.Bd4 *(16.Bg5?! Nxb3 17.Nxb3 Ne4 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.axb5 Bg4* and Black has counterchances.*)* 16...Nxb3 17.Nxb3 Ne4 18.Ne5 Qd6 19.axb5 Bh4 20.g3 Bf6 21.Qh5 Bxe5 22.Qxe5 Qxe5 23.Bxe5±;

B) 15...b4 16.a5! Fixing black's ♙a6 as a target. The idea of Bb3-a4 is annoying for black as well. bxc3 17.bxc3 Nd8 This move looks rather passive, but the alternatives are hardly better. *(17...Bg4 18.Ba4±; 17...Bg8 18.Ba4 Qd6 19.Bf4 Qxf4 20.Bxc6+-; 17...Bd6 18.Ba4)* 18.c4! White's pieces are far better placed than the black ones. Therefore, opening up the centre is a correct decision. Bd6? Allowing White to cramp Black's position completely. *(18...c5* was the least of the evils for black.*)* 19.c5 Be7 20.Bd4+- 1-0 (41) Smirin,I (2649)-Kaufman,L (2367) Minneapolis 2005 White has enormous space advantage and his pieces are far better coordinated. Black's position is already lost. 1-0 Smirin,I (2649)-Kaufman,L (2367)/Minneapolis 2005/ (41) White has

enormous space advantage and his pieces are far better coordinated. Black's position is already lost.]

[14...Bd6 15.Ng5↑]

[14...Bf5!? might be an improvement for Black.]

15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Rxa8 17.Bd4 Rf8 18.h3 Nh6 19.Qe2 Bf7 20.Qxb5 Nf5 21.Ba4 Be8 22.Qd3+- ½ (56) Ter Sahakyan,S (2640)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Lichess.org INT 2021

13.Ng5 Bg4 14.Ndf3 Qd7 15.h3 Bh5 16.g4 Bg6 17.Nh4 Rad8 18.f4 Na5 19.Nxg6 hxg6 20.Qd3 Qe8 21.Rae1 Nxb3 22.axb3 Ne4 23.Nxe4 dxe4 24.Qxe4 Qf7 25.f5 Bh4 26.fxg6 Qxb3 27.Bc5 Bxe1 28.Bxf8 Rxf8 29.Rxe1 1-0 (29) Shirov,A (2695)-Diaz Rosas,J (2351) Chess.com INT 2022

[116] **14.Bc2** This natural move seems to be harmless for black, so white should look for an advantage in the other directions. 14...Bf5

[14...Bg4 15.Qe2 Rae8 16.Qf1 Bd6 17.h3 Bh5 18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Ne4⇄ Van Elst,A-Ackermann,D/Porz 1990]

[14...Bd6 15.Nf1 Bf5 16.Ng3 Bxg3 17.hxg3 Rae8= 1-0 Frolov,A-Mikhalevski,V/Kiev 1995/CBM 51 (70) 18.a4 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Ne4 20.axb5 axb5 21.Nd2 Qf5 22.Bf4 g5 23.Be3 Ne5 24.Bd4 c5 25.Be3= 1-0 (70) Frolov,A (2520)-Mikhalevski,V (2495) Kiev 1995]

15.Bxf5

[15.Nd4?! Nxd4 16.cxd4 Bd6 17.f3 Rae8 18.Nf1 Nh5 19.Bb3 Be6 20.Bf2 Kh8∓ Golubovic,G-Popov,S/Cetinje 1991]

[15.Nb3 Rae8 16.Nbd4 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Ne4⇄]

15...Qxf5 16.Nf1 Ne4

[Very serious attention deserved 16...Bd6!? since the knight on f6 could be very important attacking piece. △17.Ng3?! Bxg3 18.hxg3 Rae8∓]

17.Ng3 Nxg3 18.hxg3 Rad8!? Prophilaxis in case of g4 by white.

[18...Rae8 19.a4 Nd8 *(19...b4?! 20.g4 Qf7 21.Qd3!±)* 20.axb5 axb5 21.g4 Qd7 22.b4 c6∞]

19.a4 b4 20.Qe2

[20.Rc1 Rd7!? *(20...Qd7 21.c4 d4 22.Nxd4 Nxd4 23.Qxd4 Qxa4∞)* 21.Nd4 Nxd4 22.cxd4 Rf6 *(22...a5?! 23.Rc6 Bd6 24.Ra6 Re7 25.Qb3 Rfe8 26.Rxa5±)* 23.Qc2 Qxc2 24.Rxc2 b3=]

20...bxc3 21.bxc3 Qc8 22.Rad1

[22.Nd4?!]

22...Bf6 23.Bg5!? h6?! Krasenkov either underestimated white's chanses in he endgame or just missed white's reply.

[23...Bxc3 24.Bxd8 *(24.Qe6+?! Qxe6 25.Rxe6 Rd6 26.Rxd6 cxd6 27.Rxd5 Bb4=)* 24...Bxe1 25.Bh4 Bb4 *(25...Ba5?! 26.Rxd5 Bb6 27.Qc4!+-)* 26.Rxd5 Kh8 27.Qd3 h6⇄]

24.Qe6+!± Very strong move after which black has to play very carefully to keep the balance.

[24.Bxf6 Rxf6 25.Nd4 Nxd4 26.cxd4 Rdf8 27.f3 Qd7=]
24...Qxe6 25.Rxe6 hxg5
[25...Nb8 26.Bxf6 Rxf6 27.Rxf6 gxf6 28.Nd4 c6 29.Rb1!±]
26.Rxc6± Carlsen,M-Krasenkow,M/Sanxenxo 2004 (37) 26...Rde8 27.Rxc7?!
[27.g4!? Re4 28.Rxa6 Rxg4 29.Rxd5 Rc4 *(29...Bxc3 30.Rxg5 Rxg5 31.Nxg5 c5 32.Ne4 Bd4 33.Kf1±)* 30.Ne5 Bxe5 31.Rxe5 Rxc3 32.Re2±]
27...Re4!± ½ (37) Carlsen,M (2581)-Krasenkow,M (2676) Sanxenxo 2004
14.Qe2!? Bd6 15.a4 Na5 16.Bc2 Nc4 17.axb5 axb5 18.Rxa8 Rxa8 19.Nxc4 bxc4 20.Bd4 Bf5 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Bxf5 Qxf5 23.g3± 1-0 Korneev,O-Cruz Lopez,C/Mondariz 1999 (37)

[117] **15.a4** h6 16.axb5 axb5 17.Ra6 Bd6 18.Nf1 Ra8 19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Nd4 Nxd4 21.Bxd4 Ne4 22.f3 Nc5 23.Bc2± 1-0 (82) Oparin,G (2652)-Abdusattorov,N (2627) Lichess.org INT 2020 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 0-0 11.Nbd2 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

[118] **12.Nd4!?** Ndxe5
[12...Ncxe5 13.f4 Nc4 14.Bc1 Nf6 15.b3 Nd6 16.Nc6 Qd7 17.Ne5 Qc8 18.Nc6 Qd7 19.Ne5 Qc8 20.Nc6 Qd7 21.Ne5 ½-½ (21) Hovhannisyan,R (2608)-Meskovs,N (2524) Riga 2018]
13.Nxe6
[13.f4 Nc4 14.Nxc6 Nxe3 15.Nxd8 Nxd1 16.Nxe6 Ne3 17.Nxc7+ Kd7 18.Nxa8 Nxc2 19.Nd2 Bc5+ 20.Kh1 Nxa1 21.Rxa1 Rxa8 22.Re1 Kd6 23.g3 Rc8 ½-½ (23) Tal,M (2565)-Timman,J (2640) Montpellier 1985]
13...fxe6 14.Nd2⩲ is really dangerous and Black tends to avoid it - there haven't been any relevant games in this branch since 2016.
[14.Qh5+ g6 15.Qh3 Qd7 16.Bh6 Nf7 17.a4 b4 18.Be3 0-0 19.Nd2 Nd6 20.Nb3 Nf5 21.Nc5 Qd6 22.Nb7 Qe5 23.Rae1 Qf6 24.Nc5∓ 0-1 (81) Giri,A (2764)-Mamedyarov,S (2741) chess24.com INT 2022]
14...0-0
[14...Bf6 15.f4 Nf7 16.Qg4 Qc8 17.Bc5 h5 18.Qh3 Be7 19.Nb3 Bd6 20.Rae1 Rh6 21.Be3 Rf6 22.Nd4+- 1-0 (30) Van Foreest,J (2548)-Timman,J (2562) Hoogeveen 2015]
15.f4 Ng6 16.Qg4 d4 17.Bxg6 dxe3 18.Qxe6+ Kh8 19.Ne4 e2 20.Rfe1 Na5 21.Bh5 Rxf4 22.Rxe2 Nc4 23.Rae1± 0-1 (66) Safarli,E (2694)-Mikhalevski,V (2508) Novi Sad 2016
12.Bf4?! Hansen,Cu 12...g5! 13.Be3 Ndxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bd4 Bf6
[15...f6 16.Re1 Qd6 17.b4 0-0 18.Nd2 Qd7 19.Nb3 Bd6 20.Bc5 Rfd8 21.Qd4 Qf7 22.a4 bxa4 23.Rxa4± ½ (37) Smirin,I (2649)-De Jong,J (2445) Kemer 2007]
16.a4 b4 17.cxb4 Nc6 18.Bc5 Be7 19.Re1 Rb8 20.Qh5 Kd7 21.Nc3 Bxc5 22.bxc5 Qf6 23.Rad1 Nb4 24.Qe2± 0-1 (36) Motylev,A (2658)-Khairullin,I (2662) Chita 2015

12.Bd4 is hardly a good idea. appeared a few times in practice as well. 12...g5
[12...Bg4 13.Re1 Nf8 *(13...Nxd4 14.cxd4 Nf8 15.Qd3 Ne6 16.Nbd2 Bh5 17.Nb3 Rc8 18.Rac1 Bg6 19.Qe3 c6 20.g3 a5 21.Kg2 a4 22.Nbd2 0-0 23.h4 ½-½ (23) Iordachescu,V (2584)-Golod,V (2589) Port Erin 2007)* 14.Qd3 Ne6 15.Nbd2 Bh5 16.Nb3 Qd7 17.Qe3 Bg6 18.Bxg6 hxg6 19.Rad1 0-0 20.Bc5 Rfd8 21.Bxe7 Nxe7 22.Nfd4 Nf5 23.Nxf5 gxf5 24.Qh3± 1-0 (49) Quesada Perez,Y (2639)-Mikhalevski,V (2552) Arlington 2013]
[12...Ncb8 13.b4 c5 14.bxc5 Nc6 15.Nbd2 Qc7 16.Nb3 0-0 17.Re1 Rfe8 18.Qd2 Bg4 19.Ng5 Ndxe5 20.Bxh7+ Kf8 21.Bc2 f6 22.Bxe5 Nxe5 23.Qxd5 fxg5 24.Rxe5± ½ (34) Cuijpers,F (2480)-Ernst,S (2589) Haaksbergen 2009]
[12...0-0 13.Re1 Na5 14.b4 Nc4 15.Nbd2 c5 16.bxc5 Nxc5 17.Nb3 Na4 18.Nbd2 Rc8 19.Nxc4 Rxc4 20.Bb3 Nxc3 21.Qd3 b4 22.Bxc4 dxc4-+ 1-0 (46) Smirnov,P (2620)-Erdogdu,M (2382) Istanbul 2004]
13.Qe2
[13.Re1 g4 14.Nfd2 Ncb8 15.b4 a5 16.a3 Nc6 17.Nb3 a4 18.Nc1 Nxd4 19.cxd4 Nb6 20.Nd3 Nc4 21.Nc3 c6 22.Ne2 Kd7= ½ (58) Sulskis,S (2521)-Korneev,O (2615) Linares 2000]
13...g4 14.Ne1 Nxd4 15.cxd4 c5 16.f4
[16.dxc5 Bxc5 17.Nd3 Bd4 18.Nd2 Rc8 19.Nb3 Bb6 20.Rad1 Rc4 21.g3 Qg5 22.Qd2 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 Qxe5 24.Bd3= 0-1 (51) Arencibia Rodriguez,W (2562)-Vallejo Pons,F (2660) Calvia 2007]
16...gxf3 17.Nxf3 c4 18.Nc3 Nb6 19.Qe3 h6 20.Ne2 Qd7 21.Nf4 0-0-0 22.b3 b4 23.bxc4 dxc4 24.Nxe6 fxe6 0-1 (42) Dominguez Perez,L (2713)-Smeets,J (2651) Nice 2010 25.a3=
12.Nbd2 Ndxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.f4 Ng4 15.Bd4 Nf6 16.Qe2 0-0 17.Qd3 g6 18.f5 Bc8 19.Qe3 c5 20.Bxc5 Bxc5 21.Qxc5 d4 22.Ne4 Nxe4 23.Bxe4± ½ (58) Karthikeyan,M (2630)-Meskovs,N (2557) Castelldefels 2021

[119] **12...0-0** 13.Bf4 Nb6 14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 c5 16.Nd2 Nc4 17.Nb3 Nxb2 18.Qb1 c4 19.Bxh7+ Kh8 20.Re3 Qc8 21.Bc2 c3 22.Nc5 Bxc5 23.Rxc3 Bxd4 24.Rxc8 Raxc8 ½ (55) Dolmatov,S (2620)-Jussupow,A (2605) Wijk aan Zee 1991 25.Bf5±

[120] **14.f4** Nc4 15.Bd4 Kf8
[15...c5 16.Bxg7 Rg8 17.f5 Bxf5 18.Bxf5 Rxg7 19.b3 Nb6 20.Nd2⩲ Novik - Sagalcik, Hozuv 1991]
16.f5 Bd7 17.b3 Nd6 18.Qf3⩲ Novik,M-Sokolin,L SSSR 1991
14.Qh5 Ng4 15.Bd4 Qd7 16.Nd2 g6 17.Qh3 0-0 18.b4 Rfe8 19.Nb3 f6 20.Rxe6 Qxe6 21.f3 Qe2 22.Qxg4 Qxc2∓ 0-1 (42) Pichot,A (2652)-Kaidanov,G (2556) San Salvador 2022

[121] **14...Nc6** Strange choice.This uncommon move promises nothing good.More preferable is 14... ♘g6 where Black's chances to equalize are much higher. ' is

dangerous for Black. 15.Bxg7 Rg8 16.Bh6
[16.Qh5! The key move in this position.Attacking the bishop White has been preparing ♕h6 followed by ♗:h7.' Mikhalevski,V: 'considered to be dangerous for Black.'
A) 16...Qd6 17.Qh6 *(17.Bh6? Bg4 18.Qh4 0-0-0 19.Rxe7 Qxe7 20.Qxe7 Nxe7-+* 0-1 Morozevich,A-Ivanchuk,V/New York 1995/ (32)*; 17.Qxh7 0-0-0 18.a4 b4 19.Bd3 Kb7⩱)* 17...0-0-0
A1) In the only game which reached this position White continued 18.Bxh7 Rxg7 *(⌓18...Rh8* playing similar to Korneev's game(see 16...Qd7)*)* 19.Qxg7 Qf4 20.g3 Qf3 21.Nd2 Qh5 22.Bd3 Rh8 23.h4+- 1-0 Milton,S-Bochkarev, A/St. Petersburg 1998/ (40);
A2) 18.a4! Mikhalevski,V: 'Taking on h7 is not burning as Black can't defend the pawn.At the same time Shirov has been weakening the position of Black's king.It's going to be very useful when the bishop retreats from h7 to d3 as the a6 pawn will be attacked.' 18...b4 19.Bxh7 d4 *(* Last practical chance was *19...Rh8!? 20.Bxh8 Rxh8 21.Qg7 Qd8* with some counterplay.*)* 20.Bxg8 Rxg8 21.Nd2!**±** 1-0 Shirov,A (2751)-Piket,J (2633)/Monte Carlo 2000/ (32) dxc3 22.Ne4 Qd5 23.bxc3
A2a) Slightly better was 23...Qf5 24.h3 Bd5 *(24...b3)* but after 25.g4! Qg6 *(25...Qf3 26.Re3)* 26.Qxg6 fxg6 27.Bf6 White wins anyway;
A2b) 23...b3 24.Rad1 Qc4 *(*Or *24...Qf5 25.h3)* 25.Bf6! Every exchange brings the win nearer. Bf5! Piket tries last,but very clever tactical trick. 26.Qf4+- 1-0 (32) Shirov,A (2751)-Piket,J (2633) Monte Carlo 2000 *(≤26.Bxe7 Bxe4)*;
B) 16...Qd7!? 17.Qh6 0-0-0 18.Bxh7 Rh8! 19.Nd2 Bf8 20.Bxf8 Rdxf8 21.Qg7 f5 22.Qg6 Re8 23.Nb3 Nd8!-+ 0-1 Saulin,D-Korneev,O/Moscow 1995/ (49);
C) 16...Rxg7?! 17.Rxe6 Rg5 18.Qxg5 fxe6 19.Qh5+ Kd7 20.Nd2**±**;
D) 16...Kd7 17.Bh6**±** Other moves are worse:
D1) 17...Bg5 Postny,E 18.f4 Bxh6 19.Qxh6 Kc8 20.f5 Bd7 21.Nd2 Rb8 22.Nf3↑ Rb6 23.Qxh7 Qf8 24.Qh4**±** ½-½ Miranovic,R-Mikhalchishin,A/ Cetinje 1992/EXT 97 (30);
D2) 17...Bf8 18.Bxf8 Qxf8 19.Nd2 h6 20.Nf3 Qg7 21.g3 Qg4 22.Ne5+ Nxe5 23.Qxe5**±** Asrian,K-Mamedyarov,S/Dubai 2000 (24);
D3) 17...Bc5! Postny: 'The idea of Motylev seriously improved Black's chances in this risky opening variation.'
D3a) 18.Be3!?=
D3a1) 18...Bxe3 19.Rxe3 Rg5 20.Qe2 Qf6 21.Nd2 Rag8 22.g3 Bg4 23.Qf1 *(23.Qd3 Kc8 24.Qf1 Rh5 25.a4 Qh6 26.Qg2 b4 27.Rae1±* 1-0 (52) Stripunsky,A (2565)-Schneider,D (2466) Minneapolis 2005*)* 23...Re5 24.a4 Rge8 25.axb5 axb5 26.Rxe5 Rxe5 27.Qxb5 d4 28.Qc4 Qe6 29.Ba4 Bh3 30.Nf3 Re4 31.Qxe6+ Bxe6 32.Nxd4 1-0 (32) Al Modiahki,M (2556)-Smerdon,D (2460) Gibraltar 2007;

D3a2) 18...Bd6 19.f4 Kc8 20.Nd2 Qf6 21.f5 Bd7 22.Nf3 Qg7 23.Re2 Kb7 24.Bh6 Qg4 25.Qxg4 Rxg4 26.Rd1± 1-0 (55) Sandipan,C (2522)-Shabalov,A (2595) Moscow 2006;

D3b) 18.Nd2 Qf6

D3b1) 19.Be3 Bd6

D3b11) 20.g3 Rg4 21.Kh1 *(21.Qxh7? Rh8 22.Qd3 Rxh2!! 23.Kxh2 Qh4+ 24.Kg2 Rxg3+! 25.fxg3 Qxg3+ 26.Kf1 Qh3+ 27.Ke2 Bg4+ 28.Nf3 Ne5! 29.Qh7 Qxf3+ 30.Kd2 Nc4+ 31.Kc1 Nxe3* and White won't survive the attack.*)* 21...Rag8 22.f4 *(22.Bd1? Ne5! 23.Bxg4 Bxg4 24.Qh6 Qxh6 25.Bxh6 Nd3∓)* 22...Kc8 23.Nf3 R8g6!± ½ (66) Dominguez Perez,L (2658)-Bruzon Batista,L (2669) Santa Clara 2005 An excellent move. White has a lot to think about...;

D3b12) 20.Qh6=;

D3b2) 19.Ne4? Postny,E dxe4 20.Qxc5 Rxg2+! 21.Kxg2 Rg8+ 22.Kf1 Bc4+ 23.Qxc4 *(23.Re2? Qf3-+)* 23...bxc4-+;

D3b3) 19.Nf3?! Rg4!∓ '!' 20.Kh1 Rag8

D3b31) Wild complications could arise after 21.Rad1!? Postny,E Rxg2 *(21...Bxf2 22.Rxd5+ Bxd5 23.Qxd5+ Kc8 24.Bf5+ Kb7 25.Bxg4 Bxe1 26.Bg5 Qd6 27.Qxf7 Bf2∓)* 22.Rxd5+

D3b311) 22...Bxd5 23.Qxd5+ Kc8 *(23...Bd6? 24.Bf5+ Kd8 25.Bf4!* and white is on top.*)* 24.Qf5+ Qxf5 25.Bxf5+ Kb7 26.Bxh7 Bxf2 27.Bxg8 Rxg8=;

D3b312) 22...Bd6 23.Rg5 Rxf2! *(23...R8xg5 24.Bxg5 Rxg5 25.Nxg5 Qxf2 26.Qe2 Bd5+ 27.Be4±)* 24.Rxg8 Rxc2∓;

D3b32) 21.Bxh7 Rxg2 *(21...Rh8 22.Rxe6 fxe6 23.Qxg4 Qxh6 24.Bd3 Bxf2 25.a4 Ke7 26.h3∞)*

D3b321) 22.Bxg8

D3b3211) 22...Rxg8 23.Rg1 Rh8 24.Bg5 Rxh5 *(24...Qf5 25.Qxh8 Qxf3+ 26.Rg2 Bh3 27.Rag1 Bxf2 28.Qxh3+□ Qxh3 29.Rxf2 Ne5∓)* 25.Bxf6 Rf5 26.Bd4±;

D3b3212) 22...Rg4!?

D3b32121) 23.Nd2 Qxf2 24.Qh3 *(24.Qxg4 Bxg4 25.Rf1 Qh4 26.Rxf7+ Ne7∓)* 24...Rxg8 25.Qf3 Qxf3+ 26.Nxf3 Bh3∓ 27.Re2 Bg4-+;

D3b32122) 23.Nh4 relatively the best move

D3b321221) 23...Qxh4? 24.Bxf7 Qxh5 25.Bxh5 Rh4 26.Be8++-;

D3b321222) 23...Qxf2? 24.Rf1? *(24.Bxf7!±)* 24...Rxh4-+;

D3b321223) 23...Rxh4 24.Bg5 Rxh5 25.Bxf6 Bd6 with a strong attack 26.h4 Rh6 27.Bg5 Rh8∓;

D3b322) 22.Rxe6! fxe6 23.Bxg8

D3b3221) 23...Rxf2?! 24.Re1 *(24.Bxe6+!?)* 24...Nd8

(24...Rxf3 25.Bxe6+ Kd6 26.Bh3 Ne5 27.b4 Bb6 28.Qe8!±) 25.Be3+-;

D3b3222) 23...Rxg8= 0-1 Kotronias,V (2585)-Motylev,A (2665)/ Moscow 2005/ (42);

D4) 17...Bf6 18.f4 d4 19.Be4 Ne7 20.Qc5 c6 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.fxg5 Kc7 23.cxd4± 1-0 Ghaem Maghami,E-Sagalchik,G/playchess.com INT 2004/ (46);

D5) 17...Bd6 18.f4 '±' *(18.Qxf7+ Bxf7 19.Bf5+ Be6 20.Bxe6+ Ke7 21.Bxg8+ Kf6 22.Be6 Bxh2+ 23.Kxh2 Qd6+ 24.g3 Re8 25.Bf4 Qd8* ½-½ Erdogdu,M-Mamedyarov,S/Kocaeli 2002/ (25) *)* 18...Kc8 19.Nd2 Kb7 20.f5 *(20.Kh1 Qf6 21.Bg5 Qg7 22.Qxh7 Qf8 23.Qh6 Qc8 24.Bf6±* 1-0 (42) Sedlak,N (2521)-Haba,P (2520) Germany 2005*)* 20...Bd7 21.Nf3 f6 22.Rad1 Ne5 23.Nxe5 Bxe5 24.Rxd5 Rxg2+ 25.Kxg2 Bc6 26.Be4 Bxd5 27.Qf3 c6 28.Bxd5 Qxd5 29.Qxd5 cxd5 30.Rxe5!+- 1-0 Dolmatov,S-Levin, F/Dortmund 1992/ (30) Ruy Lopez Open Variation-13.Ne5 Ne5 14.Bd4 Nc6 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

[16.Bd4 '?!' Nxd4 17.cxd4 Bd6 18.Nd2 Qf6 19.Nf3 0-0-0 20.Qd3 Rg4= 21.a4 Rdg8 22.g3± ½-½ (28) Watson,W-Kaidanov,G/Moscow 1985/MCL (28)]

16...Bc5 17.Qf3 Qh4∞ 0-1 (65) Acs,P (2525)-Kortschnoj,V (2619) Paks 2005 18.Bf4 Kd7 19.Nd2 h5 20.Nb3 Bb6 21.Rad1 Ne7 22.Be3 Qh3 23.Qxh3 Bxh3 24.g3 Bxe3 25.Rxe3± 0-1 (65) Acs,P (2525)-Kortschnoj,V (2619) Paks 2005

14...f6 15.a4

[15.Bxe5 fxe5

A) 16.Rxe5 Bf7 17.Qe2 Kf8 18.Nd2 An improvement over Bf6 19.Re3 g6 as played in Almasi,Z (2672)-Acs,P (2520)/Paks 2006/CBM 113 ext (½-½, 42), see below. In that game, play transposed to my game after ♘f3-e5, but I believe that 20.Nf3 *(20.Rd1 Kg7 21.Ne4±* is unpleasant for Black.*)* 20...Kg7 21.Ne5 Bxe5 22.Rxe5 Qf6

A1) 23.f4 'N' The second... novelty of this game! However, the evaluation of the position as equal remains unchanged. White's stability on dark squares is compensated by Black's mighty centre and by the relative passivity of the theoretically "good" white bishop. Rhe8 *(23...Qxf4? 24.Rf1 Qc4 25.Qf2 Raf8 26.Re7+-; 23...c5 24.Qf2 Rac8 25.Bb3 Rhd8 26.g4 Rc7 27.Rd1 Qd6 28.Kg2 d4=* Hillarp Persson,T (2491)-Marin,M (2556)/Porto Mannu Palau 2008 (½-½, 41) *)* 24.Qe3 c5 - 23.Qe3;

A2) 23.Qe3 c5 24.f4 *(24.Re1 Rhe8 25.f4 Rad8∞* Δ d4 *)*

A2a) 24...Rhe8 25.Qxc5 Qxf4 26.Rxe8 Rxe8 27.Rf1 Qe3+ *(27...Qd2 28.Qa7 Qe3+ 29.Qxe3* - 27...Qe3 *)* 28.Qxe3 - 27...Qe3 Rxe3 29.Kf2±;

A2b) 24...Rac8 25.Bb3 Rhd8 26.Rd1?! *(26.Qf2 d4 27.Bxf7 Qxf7 28.Rae1 Rd7⇄)* 26...d4 27.cxd4 Bxb3 *(27...cxd4!?)* 28.axb3 cxd4 29.Qd3 *(29.Rxd4 Rxd4 30.Qxd4 Rc1+ 31.Kf2 Qh4+ 32.g3 Qxh2+ 33.Kf3 Qh1+ 34.Kg4 Kh6=; 29.Qe4 d3⇄)* 29...Qxf4 30.Re7+ Kh8 31.Re4 *(31.Qh3? h6 32.Rf1 Rc1!-+)* 31...Qd6 32.h3 Rc7 33.Rxd4

Qxd4+ 34.Qxd4+ Rxd4 35.Rxd4 Rc2= ½ (42) Almasi,Z (2672)-Acs,P (2520) Paks 2006;

B) 16.Qh5+ Bf7 17.Qxe5 Kf8 18.Nd2 '±' Bd6 *(18...Bf6 19.Qe3 g6 20.Qh6+ Bg7 21.Qf4 Bf6 22.Rad1 Kg7 23.Ne4± ½ (30) Perez Candelario,M (2496)-Bruzon Batista,L (2648) Ayamonte 2006)* 19.Qe3 Qf6 20.g3 Kg8 21.Nb3 g6 22.Qh6 Bf8 23.Qh3 Kg7 24.Re3 Bd6 25.Nd4 Rae8 26.Rae1= 1-0 (58) Adams,M (2735)-Greenfeld,A (2556) Gibraltar 2007]

[15.Nd2 Bf7 16.Qb1 g6 17.f4 Nd7 18.a4 b4 19.Nb3 Kf8 20.Na5 c5 21.Nb7 Qc7 22.Rxe7 cxd4 23.Rxd7 Qxd7-+ 0-1 (90) Kotronias,V (2612)-Georgiadis,I (2413) Igoumenitsa 2007]

15...b4 16.cxb4

[16.f4 Bg4 17.Qd2 Nc6 18.Bf2 Bh5 19.c4 b3 20.Bxb3 d4 21.c5 Bf7 22.Bxf7+ Kxf7 23.Qd3 Qd7 24.Qc4+± 1-0 (49) Adams,M (2735)-Timman,J (2562) London 2008]

16...Bf7

[16...0-0 17.Nc3 Bxb4 18.Bxe5 fxe5 19.Rxe5 Bxc3 20.Qh5 h6 21.bxc3 Qf6 22.Qe2 Bf7 23.a5 Rab8= ½ (70) Kulaots,K (2556)-Szabo,K (2520) Budapest 2008]

17.Nc3 0-0 18.b5 axb5 19.axb5 Rxa1 20.Qxa1 c5 21.bxc6 Nxc6 22.Qa4 Nxd4 23.Qxd4 Bd6 24.Qd3 g6= ½ (31) Svidler,P (2728)-Carlsen,M (2690) Monte Carlo 2007 Ruy Lopez Open Variation1-9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Nc5 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

15.Bxg7

[15.Qh5 '?!' 0-0 *(15...Qd7 16.Bxg7 Rg8 17.Qxh7 0-0-0∞)* 16.f4 c5 17.Bf2 Bd6 *(17...f5 18.g3 Bc8 19.Nd2 Qd7 20.Nf3 Bb7 21.Rxe7 Nxe7 22.Bxc5≅ Kapengut,A-Chekhov,V/Minsk 1981)* 18.f5 Nf4 19.Qg4 Bd7 20.g3 h5∓]

15...Rg8 7 16.Bxg6 Mikhalevski,V: 'Otherwise Black creates strong counterplay along the g-file.' 16...Rxg7 5

[16...hxg6 17.Be5 Kf8 18.Nd2 Bf6 19.Qf3 *(19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Nb3±)* 19...Bxe5 20.Rxe5 Kg7 21.Nb3 Qd6 22.Rae1 c5⇄ Coudray,C-Flear,C/France 1996]

17.Rxe6 '!' Finkel,A: 'This move is considered by modern theory as white's best attempt in the position.'

[17.Bd3 Kf8 18.Nd2 Bd6 19.Nf1 Qh4 20.g3 Qg5±]

[17.Bh5?! Kf8 18.Nd2 Bd6 19.Nf1 Qf6 20.Bf3 Rd8 21.Ng3 Rg5 22.a4 Kg8 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra5 b4⇄ 25.Qd3 bxc3 26.bxc3 c5= Morozevich,A-Flear,G/ Hyeres op 1992/½-½ (53)]

17...hxg6 '!'

[17...Rxg6? 18.Re1±]

18.Re2 Finkel,A: 'Definitly the best place for the rook since queen can be transferred to thekingside via d3.

[The less logical 18.Re5 c6 19.Nd2 Kf8 20.Nf3 *(20.Qe2 Bd6 21.Re3 Rh7 22.h3 Bf4 23.Rd3 Kg7 24.Re1 Rh8 25.Qg4 Qg5 26.Qxg5 Bxg5=* ½-½ Kruszynski,W-Blauert,J/Lyngby op 1989 (41) *; 20.Re3 Bc5?! 21.Rh3 Qe7?!*

22.Nb3 Re8 23.Qd2 Kg8 24.Nxc5 Qxc5 25.Re1 Re7 26.Rxe7 Qxe7 27.Re3 Qd7 28.Qd4 Rh7 29.h3± ½-½ Jurkovic,A-Nikolac,J/CRO-chT Makarska Tucepi 1995 (51) *)*

A) 20...Rh7 21.Qd3 Bf6 22.Re2 Qd6 *(22...Rh8 23.Rae1 Kg7 24.h3 Qd6 25.Nh2 c5 26.Ng4 Rad8 27.Qf3 Rhf8 28.Rd1 d4 29.cxd4 ½-½* Rogic,D-Anka,E/Harkany op 1994*)* 23.Rae1 Rh5 24.g3 Rd8 25.Nd4 Qd7 26.b4 Kg7= ½-½ Ernst,T-Todorovic,G/Vienna op 1991 (43);

B) 20...Bd6 21.Re2 Rh7 22.Qd4 c5 23.Qd3 Rh5 24.a4 Kg7 25.g3 bxa4 26.Rxa4 Qf6 27.Kg2 Rf5 28.Rh4± ½-½ Dvoirys,S-Micic,C/Cheliabinsk 1989 (46);

C) 20...Bf6 21.Re2 *(21.Re3 Qd6 22.a4 b4 23.cxb4 Qxb4 24.Rc1 Qd6 25.Rb3 c5 26.a5 Rc8 27.Rb6± 1-0 (35)* Dvoirys,S (2538)-Mikhalevski,V (2552) Jerusalem 2013*)* 21...Rh7 *(21...Rg8 22.Ne5 Qd6 23.Ng4 Kg7 24.Qd2 Rh8 25.Rae1 Rh4 26.h3 Rah8 27.Nxf6 Qxf6 28.Re7 a5 29.R1e6 Qxe6 30.Rxe6 fxe6 31.Qe3±* Stisis,Y-Gyimesi,Z/Lenk-J 1993/0-1 (81)*)* 22.Qd2 Kg7 *(22...Qd6 23.g4!? Rd8 24.g5 Bg7 25.Rae1 c5 26.h4* ♙h7 *d4 27.cxd4 Bxd4 28.Kg2± 1-0 (39)* Sokolov,A-Flear,G/Clichy 1993*)* 23.Qf4 Qb8 24.Qg4 Qc8 25.Qf4 Qb8 26.Qg4 Qc8 ½-½ Kuczynski,R (2525)-Flear,G (2505)/ Polanica Zdroj 1992/ (29)]

[18.Re3 Kf8 19.a4 Rg8 20.Nd2 Bf6 21.Nf3 Kg7 22.axb5 axb5 23.Rxa8 Qxa8 24.g4 Qd8 25.Qd2 c6 26.Kg2 Rf8 27.Rd3 ½-½ Sisniega,M-Toth,C/ Bogota Lat Cup Final 1991]

[18.Re1 Kf8 19.Nd2 Bd6 20.Nf3 Rh7 21.Qd3 c6 22.Re2 Kg7 23.Rae1 Qf6 24.h3 Rhh8 25.Qd4 Qxd4 26.cxd4± ½-½ Dommisse,C-Slingerland,F/NLD-ch sf Enschede 1993 (45)]

18...Rh7

[18...Kf8 Mikhalevski,V: 'This is the position I was striving to. Black just needs to consolidate his position with moves like ♖g8(h7); ♗f6; ♔g7 and he's gonna be fine. White has to disturb this plan with a4 or by bringing the knight to e5.' The first junction after 12.♖e1.

A) 19.Nd2 Mikhalevski,V: 'The most logical continuation. First White develops his knight and only then decides where to place his queen.' Bf6 *(19...Rg8* is a worthy alternative. See Khalifman,A-Kortchnoi,V, Ubeda 1997/CBM58 [Mikhalevski,V].*)* 20.Nf3 Rg8 '!?' Hansen,Cu **Δ** ♔g7, ♕d7, ♖ge8 *(20...Qd6 21.a4 Rd8 22.Qd3 c6 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra6 Rh7 25.h3±* 0-1 Tolnai,T-Gyimesi,Z/HUN-chT 1994 (37) *)*

A1) 21.Qd2

A1a) 21...Kg7! Hansen,Cu 22.Rd1 *(22.Rae1 Qd6=; 22.b4 a5⇄)* 22...c6 23.Ne5 Qc7=;

A1b) 21...Qd6 Hansen: I don't understand why the irritating ♕h6+ should be allowed. 22.Qh6+ Bg7 23.Qe3 Rh8 *(23...Bf6!?* Hansen,Cu **Δ**♔g7 *24.a4 Kg7)*

A1b1) 24.Rae1 Bf6 25.Ne5 Re8 26.Qg3 *(26.Nxg6+? Kg7)*

26...Kg7=;

A1b2) 24.a4 bxa4 25.Rxa4± ½-½ Khalifman,A (2650)-Kortschnoj,V (2635)/Ubeda 1997/ (28);

A2) 21.Qd3 Kg7 22.a4 c6 23.Nd4 *(23.Ne5)* 23...Qd7 24.f4 bxa4∓ 0-1 Backlund,A-Wedberg,T/Rilton Cup 1992 (45);

B) Here are a few recent examples in which White tested different ideas. 19.a4!? Rh7 *(19...b4 20.Nd2 bxc3 21.bxc3 Bf6 22.Qc2 c6 23.Rb1 Rg8 24.Nf3 Kg7 25.Rbe1 Qd7 26.Ne5 Bxe5 27.Rxe5±)* 1-0 (48) Kotronias,V (2587)-Howell,D (2471) Stockholm 2006*)* 20.Nd2 Bd6 21.g3 Rb8 22.Nf3 Rh5 23.h4 Qd7 24.axb5 axb5 25.Qd4 Kg8 26.Rae1± 1-0 Van den Doel,E-Motwani,P/Belgium 2002 (31);

C) 19.Qd3 Before developing the knight to d2 White is activating the queen. This move usually leads to transposition.

C1) Mikhalevski,V: Inaccurate play in the following game allowed White to develop dangerous initiative. 19...Rh7 This seems to be the most useful move as Black will have an important tempo ... ♕d6, while the rook is definitely more active compared to g7. 20.Nd2 Black has also played

C1a) 20...Bf6 Black is getting ready to play d4. 21.Nf3 Qd6 Nominally a novelty, which in fact just transposes to a correspondence game. *(21...Kg7 22.Rae1 Qd6* is how that correspondence game continued. *)*

C1a1) Also after 22.a4!? Rb8 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra5 Qb6 Black is close to equality. *(24...c6!?)*;

C1a2) 22.Rae1 Kg7 is how that correspondence game continued. 23.h3 Rd8 transposes to the game. *(23...Rh5!?* Preventing ♘e5 was also good.*)* 24.Ne5 Rh5! Attacking White's only active piece. *(*The immediate *24...d4?! 25.cxd4 Qxd4 26.Qc2* is slightly better for White, though even here Black shouldn't have big problems. *)*

C1a21) During the game my main worry was 25.f4 , but Black is fine after

C1a211) 25...Rf5!? 26.Qf3 *(26.Qd2 Qc5+ 27.Kh2 d4)* 26...Bxe5 27.fxe5 Qb6+ 28.Qe3 d4! 29.cxd4 Rxd4 30.e6 fxe6 31.Qxe6 Rd6+ 32.Qe3 Qxe3+ 33.Rxe3 c5 with the most likely result being a draw, though White has to be accurate.;

C1a212) 25...d4

C1a2121) or 26.g4 Rhh8 27.Re4 *(27.c4 c5∓)* 27...dxc3 28.Qxc3 c5∓;

C1a2122) 26.c4! Rf5 27.cxb5 axb5 28.Re4 Bxe5 29.fxe5 Qb4 30.R1e2 *(30.e6 Qxb2!∓)* 30...c5 31.g4 c4 32.Qd2 Qxd2 33.Rxd2 Rf3 34.Kg2 Rd3 35.Rxd3 cxd3 36.Kf3 Rh8 37.Rxd4 Rxh3+ 38.Ke4 Rh2=;

C1a22) 25.Ng4 d4!= ½ (44) Balogh,C (2608)-Mikhalevski,V (2610) Khanty-Mansiysk 2010 If Black had any problems they are already in past.;

C1b) 20...c6 , which doesn't look like a necessity. 21.Rae1 Bf6 22.Nf3 Rh8 23.Ne5 Bxe5 *(23...Qd6!? 24.Ng4 Kg7)* 24.Rxe5 Qf6 25.Qd4± 1-0 Vallejo Pons,F-Narciso Dublan,M/Lanzarote ESP 2003 (29);

C2) 19...c6 20.Nd2 Rg8 21.Nf3 Kg7 *(21...Bf6)* 22.Nd4 Rc8 *(22...Qc7? 23.Nxc6+-)* 23.Qg3!? Bc5 *(23...Bf6? 24.Nf5+ Kf8 25.Nd6+-)* 24.Nf5+ Kf8 25.Nh6 Rh8 26.Ng4 Bd6 *(26...Qh4 27.Qf3 Kg7 28.h3 Rhe8 29.Rae1 Rxe2 30.Qxe2 Qg5∞)* 27.Qd3± 1-0 Stripunsky,A (2533)-Fishbein,A (2505)/ San Diego 2004/ (48) White keeps slightly better chances due to control over an e-file, but black doesn't seem to have a particular problems.]

19.Nd2 Kf8 20.Nf3 Earlier Black tested 20...Bf6

[20...Qd6 Only this move turns out to be a novelty, although a similar idea was tested before. The point is to bring the queen rook to d8. 21.a4! White is creating an object of attack on the queenside and thus disturbs Black plans. Rd8 *(21...Rb8!?* would be more accurate as the b5-pawn will be soon attacked.*)* 22.Qd3 All these moves were played by both players rather quickly. Now it was a good point to stop and try to understand what is happening. The b5-pawn is attacked. While after 22...c6 23. axb5 axb5 24. ♖a6 followed by ♘d4 Black starts to experience problems with the queenside pawns. After a long thought I came with an interesting pawn sacrifice. Qb6! 23.axb5 axb5 24.Nd4 Bf6! *(* I didn't like *24...c6* as it prevents my queen from controlling the sixth rank and thus makes ideas ♖e6 and ♘e6 rather annoying. *)*

A) In case of 25.Nxb5 c5!⩱ The knight on b5 is misplaced which gives Black certain initiative thanks to a strong bishop on f6. *(25...Rh4!?)*;

B) And 25.Qxb5? loses to Bxd4;

C) 25.g3 Kg7 Preparing doubling of rooks along the h-file and setting a trap. 26.h4 Avoiding the following. *(26.Nxb5?* is strongly met by *Rdh8 27.h4 Bxh4!* with a very strong attack.*)* 26...Rhh8!? Black is still fighting for initiative while it was possible to simply protect the b5-pawn. *(26...c6)* 27.Nxb5 Rhe8! This way Black prevents ♘d4.

C1) 28.Nd4?! loses back a pawn. Bxd4 *(28...c5!?)* 29.cxd4 Rxe2 30.Qxe2 Qxd4;

C2) 28.Rae1 Re4! 1-0 Jakovenko,D (2596)-Mikhalevski,V (2553)/Montreal 2005/ (83) The same startegy of restricting White's knight. With some good compensation for a pawn thanks to a misplaced knight on b5.]

21.h3

[21.a4 Kg7 22.Qd3 ½-½ Fogarasi,T-Todorovic,G/Budapest 2002/ (22) *(22.Qb3 c6 23.Qb4 Rh8 24.Rae1 bxa4 25.h3 Qc7 26.Qxa4 c5 27.Ne5 Rhe8 28.Ng4 Rxe2 29.Rxe2 Qd6 30.Nxf6* ½-½ (30) Ponomariov,R (2758)-Roiz,M (2668) Saratov 2011 *)* 22...c6 1:32 23.h3 6:36 Rh8 27 24.Ne5 8:39 Qd6 22:28 25.Ng4 8 Rhe8= 38 ½ (44) Dominguez Perez,L (2757)-Nakamura,H (2772) Elancourt 2013]

[21.Qd2 Δ g4 Qd7±]

21...Kg7

[21...Rh8 22.Qd2 Qd6 23.Rae1 Kg7 ½-½ Becerra Rivero,J (2598)-Mikhalevski,

V (2592)/Lubbock 2008/CBM 126]
22.Qd3 Rh8 23.Rd1 c6 24.Ne5 Qd6 25.Ng4 Rae8 ½-½ Magem Badals,J-Flear,G/ Palma de Mallorca 1991/ (33) Ruy Lopez Open Variation-13.Ne5 Ne5 14.Bd4 Ng6 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]

122 **12.Nbd2** Ne6
[12...Qd7 13.Re1 *(13.Qb1 Bh5 14.b4 Ne6 15.a4 Rd8 16.axb5 axb5 17.Bf5 Bg6 18.Nb3 Bxf5 19.Qxf5 0-0 20.Qd3 Ra8 21.Rfd1 Rxa1 22.Rxa1 f6 23.Qxb5 Rb8 24.Qa4 fxe5 25.Na5 Ned8 26.Nxc6 Nxc6 27.b5 Nd8 28.Nxe5 Qxb5 29.g3 ½-½ (29) Wolff,P (2520)-Torre,E (2530) San Francisco 1991)* 13...0-0 14.Qb1 g6 15.h3 Be6 16.Nf1 f5 17.exf6 Rxf6 18.Nd4 Bf5 19.Nxf5 gxf5 20.Qd1 Raf8 21.Qh5 Ne6 22.Rad1+- 1-0 (34) Ramesh,R (2450)-Timman,J (2639) Amsterdam 2000]
13.Qb1 Bh5 14.a4
[14.Re1 A rare move.
A) 14...Qd7 'N'
A1) 15.Bf5 Bg6 16.Nb3 0-0 17.Bxg6 *(17.Nbd4!?)*
A1a) 17...hxg6 allows the additional possibility 18.Qd3 . However, this may not be that dangerous. a5! 19.Rad1 *(19.Qxb5 Nxe5=)* 19...a4 20.Nc1 Rfd8 21.Ne2 Na5∞;
A1b) 17...fxg6!? It is always a good question which way to capture. My move opens the f-file for the rook and avoids any danger of a white kingside attack, but leaves the e6-knight slightly less stable. 18.Nbd4 *(*One point behind my previous move is revealed after *18.Qd3? Rxf3! 19.gxf3 Nxe5 20.Qe2 Bd6∓; 18.Nfd4 Nxe5 19.Nxe6 Qxe6 20.Bd4 Bd6∓)* 18...Ncd8 *(18...Ncxd4!? 19.cxd4 Rxf3 20.gxf3 Rf8* may be playable, but it take strong nerves, since pawns are equal and Black's queenside structure is not perfect either. *)* 19.b4 a5 20.a3
A1b1) 20...c6 21.Qd3 *(21.Qd1 a4=)* 21...Nxd4 22.Nxd4 Ne6=;
A1b2) 20...Nxd4?! A hurried exchange, which will cause some mini-problems. 21.Nxd4 Ne6 22.Qd1! Suddenly, there is a strong threat for White in an apparently stable position. Nxd4 23.Bxd4 Qe6
A1b21) During the game I was afraid of 24.a4!? , but things seem to be not really bad for Black. bxa4 *(24...axb4 25.axb5±)* 25.Qxa4 *(25.Rxa4 axb4 26.cxb4 c6=)* 25...axb4 26.Qxa8 Rxa8 27.Rxa8+ Kf7∞ I wrongly assessed this positoon as quite bad for Black. 28.cxb4 Bxb4 29.Rc1 Qg4 30.Be3 Bc3!∓;
A1b22) 24.Qd3 c6= ½ (36) De la Villa Garcia,J (2458)-Marin,M (2553) Benasque 2008 Now, Black is absolutely fine.;
A2) 15.Nd4 Ncxd4! 16.cxd4 c5 We can see that the bishop is very useful on h5, by preventing the generally desirable ♘f3. 17.Nb3 c4 18.Nd2 Qa7∓;
A3) 15.a4 b4 16.Qa2 Na5 17.Bf5 bxc3 18.bxc3 0-0 19.Nd4 c5 20.N4b3 Nxb3 21.Nxb3 Qc6 22.f4 Bg6 23.Bg4 c4 24.Nd2 Bd3∓

½ (54) Iordachescu,V (2645)-Georgiadis,I (2445) Korinthos 2012;

B) 14...Bg6

B1) 15.Nb3 Qd7 16.Nfd4?! *(16.Bxg6 hxg6 17.Nfd4* wins a tempo over our main game.*)* 16...Nxe5 17.Nxe6 fxe6∞ 18.Nc5? Qc6 19.Nxe6 Qxe6 20.Bd4 Bxc2 21.Qxc2 Qg6 0-1 Lobron,E (2480)-Timman,J (2605)/Indonesia 1983/MCD;

B2) 15.Nf1 0-0 16.Ng3 Re8 17.Nf5 Bf8 18.Qd1 Qd7 19.g4 Rad8 20.h3 Na5 21.h4 h5 22.Nh2 Nc4 23.gxh5 Nxe3 24.fxe3± 1-0 (37) Kryvoruchko,Y (2668)-Kotsur,P (2552) Dubai 2013]

[14.Bf5 Bg6 15.Nb3 *(15.Rd1 Qd7 16.Qc2 0-0 17.Nf1 Na5 18.Ng3 c5 19.h4 Nc4 20.Bc1 Rfe8 21.b3 Nb6 22.h5 Bxf5 23.Nxf5±* 0-1 (58) Dolmatov,S (2620)-Jussupow,A (2605) Wijk aan Zee 1991*)* 15...Qd7 16.Nbd4 Ncd8 17.b4 0-0 18.g4 a5 19.a3 Qe8 20.Qd3 c6 21.Ne2 Nc7 22.Ng3 c5 23.h4 Nc6 24.bxc5± 0-1 (38) Olszewski,M (2542)-Marin,M (2555) Spoleto 2011]

[Two rounds later, I met one of Jesus' pupils, who, advised by his trainer, chose the strongest continuation: 14.b4 Blocking Black's queenside structure. Bg6 15.a4N *(*A strong novelty. In case of *15.Nb3* Stoica,V-Staller,P/Val Thorens 1980/(1-0, 40), White may find it difficult to carry out a4 after *Qd7!)* 15...0-0?! Blundering a pawn. *(15...Rb8±)* 16.Bxg6 fxg6 17.axb5 axb5 18.Rxa8 Qxa8 19.Qd3± Ncd8 *(19...d4 20.Nxd4 Ncxd4 21.cxd4 Qd5 22.Rb1±* Black's stability on the light squares will only offer him chances to defend for a long time.*)* 20.Qxb5 c6 21.Qa5?! Playing too actively. *(21.Qd3±)* 21...Nb7 22.Qb6?! *(22.Qa1!?)* 22...Rc8 23.Nb3 Bd8 24.Qa7 Qxa7 25.Bxa7 Ra8 26.Ra1 c5⇄ Now, White faces technical problems. 27.bxc5?! *(* His only chance to retain winning chances was *27.b5! Nc7 28.b6 Nb5 29.Na5!* and, curiously, Black cannot get any advantage from the pins.*)* 27...Nbxc5 28.Bxc5 Rxa1+ 29.Nxa1 Nxc5± ½-½, 46) Black will retrieve the lost pawn soon and White's advantage remains symbolic.]

14...b4 15.a5 Bg6 16.Rd1

[16.Nb3 bxc3 17.bxc3 Qb8 18.Qa2 0-0 19.Bxg6 hxg6 20.Rab1?! *(20.Rfb1* Bronstein *)* 20...Qb5 21.Qc2 Qc4 22.Nfd2 Qg4⇄ Gligoric,S-Szabo,L/Zuerich 1953/Candidates (0-1, 41)]

16...bxc3 17.bxc3 Rb8 18.Qa2 0-0 19.Bxg6 hxg6 20.Nb3 Qd7 21.Rd2 Rfd8 22.Rad1 Qc8 23.Rxd5 Rxd5 24.Rxd5 Qb7 25.Nbd2 Bb4= 0-1 (33) Giri,A (2764)-Mamedyarov,S (2741) chess24.com INT 2022

[123] **12...Qd7** 13.h3 Bh5 14.Nbd2 Ne6 15.g4 Bg6 16.Nf1 Rd8 17.Bf5 Na5 18.Ng3 Nc4 19.Bc1 c5 20.a4 0-0 21.axb5 axb5 22.h4 h6 23.h5+- 1-0 (37) Carlsen,M (2625)-Todorovic,G (2480) ICC INT 2006

[124] **14.Qxd5** Qxd5 15.Bxd5 Bxf3 16.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 17.gxf3 f5 18.Nd2 Kf7 19.Nb3 c5 20.Re2 Rhe8 21.a4 f4 22.Bd2 Bf6 23.Na5 Rad8 24.Kg2 Rd6∓ ½ (46) Tseshkovsky,V (2570)-Tal,M (2625) Tbilisi 1978

[125] **15.Bxa8** Qxa8 16.Nbd2 Nd3 17.Rf1 Rd8 18.Qc2 Bf5 19.a4 b4 20.cxb4 Bxb4 21.Rfd1 Rd5 22.Qc4 a5 23.Ne4 Rd8 24.Rxd3 Rxd3 25.Qxd3 Bxe4 26.Qe2± ½ (78) Bindrich,F (2540)-Kortschnoj,V (2543) Switzerland 2011

[126] **11...Nc5** 12.Bc2 Bg4 13.Qb1
[13.Re1 Ne6 14.Qb1 *(14.h3 Bh5 15.Qb1 Bg6 16.Nb3 0-0 17.Bf5 Ncd8 18.Rd1 a5 19.Nbd4 c5 20.Ne2 Ra7 21.Bxg6 fxg6 22.Qd3 Rxf3 23.gxf3 Nc7 24.Nf4 Nf7 25.e6 Nxe6 26.Qxd5 Qxd5 27.Rxd5 Nc7 28.Rd7* 1-0 (28) Grigoriants,S (2592)-Naumkin,I (2503) Cappelle la Grande 2007*)* 14...Bh5 15.Bf5 Bg6 16.Nf1 Bxf5 17.Qxf5 0-0 18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Ng3± Rfe8 20.Qc2 Nf8 *(⌓20...Bc5)* 21.Nf5 Ng6 22.Bd4 Bf8 23.Ng5 Nce7?! 24.Nxg7!? Bxg7 25.e6 fxe6 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 27.Nxe6+ Kg8 28.Nxd8 Rxd8 29.g3= 1-0 Hracek,Z (2635)-Slobodjan,R (2500)/Altensteig 1995/ (80)]
[13.h3 Bh5 14.Bxc5 Bxc5 15.Re1 0-0 16.Qb1 Bg6 17.Bxg6 fxg6 18.Qd3 Nd8 19.Ne4 Bb6 20.Rad1 Ne6 21.Qxd5 Qxd5 22.Rxd5 Nf4 23.Rd2 Nxh3+ 24.Kf1± 1-0 (52) Kamsky,G (2718)-Bruehl,A (2370) Mainz 2007]
13...Bh5
[13...h6 14.Nd4 Nxe5 15.f4 Nc4 16.Nxc4 dxc4 17.f5 Bh5 18.b4 Nd3 19.Bxd3 cxd3 20.Qxd3 Qd5 21.Rae1 0-0-0 22.a4 Rhe8 23.axb5 axb5 24.h3± 1-0 (34) Hulak,K (2515)-Hort,V (2585) Wijk aan Zee 1983]
14.a4
[14.b4 Ne6 15.a4 Rd8 16.axb5 axb5 17.Bf5 Bg6 18.Nb3 Bxf5 19.Qxf5 0-0= Wolff,P-Torre,E/San Francisco/1991]
14...b4 15.Bxc5?! Bxc5 16.Nb3 Bxf3 17.gxf3
[17.Nxc5 Qg4 18.g3 Qh3]
17...Nxe5!
[17...Be7 18.Bf5 Qd8 19.f4]
18.Qd1
[18.Nxc5 Nxf3+ 19.Kg2 Qg4+ 20.Kh1 Qh3 21.Re1+ Kf8 22.Nd7+ Kg8 *(22...Qxd7 23.Bf5 Qd6-+)* 23.Nf6+ gxf6 24.Rg1+ Nxg1 25.Qxg1+ Kf8∓]
[18.Re1 Bd6 19.cxb4 *(19.Bf5 Qe7 20.f4 Nf3+-+)* 19...0-0 20.Bxh7+ Kh8 21.Nd4 g6]
18...Be7 19.Re1 Ng6 20.Nc5 Qc6 21.cxb4 0-0 22.Rc1 Bg5 23.Rb1 Bf4 24.Kh1 a5 25.Qd4
[25.Bxg6 hxg6 *(25...Qxg6 26.Nd3 Bd6 27.bxa5 Qh5 28.f4 Qxd1 29.Rexd1 Rxa5 30.b3 Re8 31.Re1)* 26.Nd3 Bd6]
25...axb4 26.Bb3 Rad8 27.Nd3 Qd6-+ 0-1 Gofshtein,L (2540)-Hracek,Z (2510)/ Prague 1993/ (32)

11...Bg4?? Quite an amazing mistake, coming from one of the greatest experts on the Open Ruy. Viktor's enthusiasm at finding new ideas over the board sometimes backfires. 'N??' 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Qd5! Effectively ends the game. The rest is already a matter of technique, although my opponent's pugnacity allows the game to drag on for another fifty moves. 13...Qxd5

[13...0-0? 14.Qxe4+-]
[13...exf3? 14.Qxf7+ Kd8 with two ways for White to cash in:
A) 15.e6 Qe8 16.Qxe8+ Kxe8 *(16...Rxe8 17.Bd5)* 17.Bd5 Rd8 18.Bxc6+ Kf8 19.Bd7+-;
B) 15.Qxg7 Re8 16.Rfd1 Bd6 17.Qf6+ Kc8 *(17...Qe7 18.Qxe7+ Kxe7 19.exd6+ cxd6 20.Bd5+-)* 18.exd6 fxg2 19.dxc7 Bxd1 20.Rxd1 Qxc7 21.Be6++-]
14.Bxd5 0-0-0 15.Bxc6 exf3 16.gxf3 Bd7□ 17.Be4 Be6 18.a4 To add to Black's misfortunes, his queenside is a ready-made target. 18...f5 19.Bc6
[19.exf6!? This was possibly stronger. gxf6 20.axb5 Bh3 21.Bf4! The move I missed, and mentioned to me by Viktor during dinner !
A) 21...Rdg8+ 22.Bg3 Bxf1 23.Kxf1 Bc5 *(23...axb5? 24.Bc6+-)* 24.Rxa6 *(24.bxa6 Ba7±)* 24...Bb6 25.Bxh7+-;
B) 21...Bd6 22.Bg3 Bxf1 23.Kxf1± White's advantage is overwhelming.]
19...b4□ 20.cxb4 Bxb4 21.f4 Bb3
[⌓21...Bd5! was a grittier defence, as Black improves his defensive chances by trading pieces. The reason is clear: the exposure of his king is more serious a handicap than his material disadvantage. 22.Rfc1 a5 23.Bxd5 Rxd5 24.Rc4 *(24.Bb6? c5)* 24...Rhd8 25.Rac1 Rd1+ *(25...R8d7 26.Kg2 Kb7 27.Bc5!±)* 26.Kg2 Rxc1 27.Rxc1 Rd5 × c5 28.Kf3 Kd7 29.h4± h5, ♖g1]
22.Rfc1 Bd2
[22...Rd3 23.Bg2+- Δ ♗f1, Δ ♖c6]
23.Bxd2 Rxd2 24.Rc3 Rxb2 25.Rac1+- 1-0 Lautier,J (2630)-Kortschnoj,V (2635)/ Ubeda 1997/ (58)
11...Nxd2?! 12.Qxd2 Na5 13.Bg5
[13.Rfe1 c5 14.h3 h6 15.Bc2 Nc4 16.Qc1 a5 17.b3 Nb6 18.a4 bxa4 19.bxa4 Nc4 20.Rb1 Qc7 21.Bf4 Rb8 22.Bd3 Rxb1 23.Qxb1 0-0= 1-0 (51) Hjartarson,J (2509)-Lomasov,S (2549) Reykjavik 2019]
[13.Nd4 c5 14.Nxe6 fxe6 15.Bc2 Nc4 16.Qe2 Nxe5 17.Rae1 0-0 18.Qh5 Ng6 19.Bd2 Rf7 20.f4 Nf8 21.f5 e5 22.Rxe5 Bf6 23.Re2 Re8 24.Rxe8 Qxe8 25.Re1± 1-0 (55) Caruana,F (2806)-Mamedyarov,S (2782) Saint Louis 2021]
[13.Rfd1 Rd8 14.h3 *(14.Nd4 0-0 15.Qd3 Nc4 16.Bxc4 bxc4 17.Qd2 c5 18.Ne2 Qc7 19.Bf4 Rd7 20.Qe3 Rfd8 21.Rd2 Qb6 22.Rad1 d4 23.Qg3 dxc3 24.Qxc3 Rd3∓* 0-1 (39) Onischuk,V (2620)-Mamedyarov,S (2767) Warsaw 2021*)* 14...c5 15.Qe2 h6 16.Bc2 Nc4 17.Bc1 Bf5 18.a4 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 0-0 20.axb5 axb5 21.b3 Nb6 22.Be3 Ra8 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.b4 Rc8= ½ (43) Karthikeyan,M (2623)-Pranav,A (2502) Delhi 2022]
13...Nc4
[13...c5
A) 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Ng5 *(15.Bxd5 Rd8 16.c4 Nxc4 17.Bc6+ Kf8 18.Qc3 b4 19.Qc1 h6 20.a3 bxa3 21.bxa3 g5 22.Rb1 Qc7 23.Be4= ½* (63) Giri,A (2798)-Caruana,F (2787) Wijk aan Zee 2016*; 15.Bc2 Nc4 16.Qc1 h6 17.b3 Nb6 18.a4 bxa4 19.bxa4 0-0 20.Re1 Rfd8 21.h3 Nc4 22.Bd3 Rab8*

23.Rb1 Qd7 24.Rxb8 Rxb8 25.Bxc4 dxc4∓ 0-1 (73) Bocharov,D (2530)-Grachev,B (2615) Sochi 2019*)* 15...Nxb3 16.axb3 0-0 17.f4 g6 18.h3 Rfd8 19.Qf2 h6 20.Nf3 Bf5 21.b4 cxb4 22.cxb4 Rdc8 23.Nd4 Be4 24.Rac1 Rc4 25.b3 Rxc1 26.Rxc1 Qxb4 27.Rc7 Qa5 28.Rc6± 0-1 (85) Sokolov,A (2555)-Jussupow,A (2600) Montpellier 1985;

B) 14.Rad1 Rd8 15.Bc2 Nc4 16.Qc1 h6 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.b3 Nb6 19.h3 0-0 20.Qe3 Rc8 21.Rfe1 Rfd8 22.Bb1 Rc7 23.Rd2 Rcd7 24.Red1± 1-0 (57) Vachier Lagrave,M (2757)-Mamedyarov,S (2758) Saint Louis 2022;

C) 14.h3 h6 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Bc2 Nc6 17.Rfe1 Rd8 18.a4 b4 19.a5 bxc3 20.bxc3 Qc7 21.Qd3 Nxa5 22.Nh4 Nc6 23.f4 d4 24.Rxa6 dxc3 25.Qb5+- 1-0 (49) Kokarev,D (2624)-Esipenko,A (2471) Kolomna 2016]

[13...0-0 14.Rad1 Rad8 15.Bc2 Bg4 16.Qf4 f6 17.e6 Bxe6 18.Qh4 Bf5 19.Bxf5 Qxf5 20.Bc1 c5 21.Rfe1 Nc6 22.h3 Rd7 23.Qg4 Qxg4 24.hxg4 Rfd8 25.g5 Kf7 26.gxf6 gxf6 27.Kf1 a5 0-1 (27) Ivanchuk,V (2678)-Yoo,C (2563) chess24.com INT 2022]

14.Bxc4 bxc4 15.b4! ×d4 15...cxb3 16.axb3 0-0

[16...c5!? 17.Ra5! *(17.b4 cxb4 18.cxb4 0-0⇄ ┐b4)* 17...0-0 18.Rfa1 Rab8 19.R1a3 Bg4 20.Rxa6 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Bxg5 22.Qxg5 d4 23.Rd6±]

17.b4 c5 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.bxc5 Qxc5 20.Qd3?!

[⌓20.Nd4 Rfc8 21.Rac1 a5 22.Kh1! *(22.f4 Bf5)* 22...a4 23.f4 a3 24.f5 Bd7 25.f6 *(25.e6 fxe6 26.fxe6 Be8 27.Nf5 Bg6∓ △28.Qxd5 Bxf5 29.Qxf5 Qxf5 30.Rxf5 a2 31.Ra1 Rxc3)* 25...a2 *(25...Re8 26.fxg7 Rxe5 27.Rxf7 Kxf7 28.Qf4+ Kg8 29.Qxe5 a2 30.Ra1±)* 26.Ra1 *(26.Qg5 Qf8∞)* 26...Re8 27.Rxa2 Rxa2 28.Qxa2 Rxe5 29.fxg7 Kxg7 30.Qf2 Qe7 31.h3↑]

20...f6?!

[20...Rfc8! 21.Ng5 g6 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.Rxa6 Rxa6 24.Qxa6 Qc6 25.Qxc6 Rxc6 26.Rc1 g5 27.Kf1 Rc4 28.f3 Kf7 29.Ke2 Kg6 30.Kd3 Kf5 31.Re1 h5=]

[20...a5!? 21.Ng5 g6∞ △22.Qg3 Bf5 23.Qh4 h5]

21.Rfe1

[21.Rxa6 Bf5 22.Qe2 Rxa6 23.Qxa6 Qxc3=]

[21.Nd4!? Bd7 22.e6 Bb5! 23.Nxb5 axb5 24.Rab1 Rab8 25.Rfe1 Rfe8 26.Re3 Qc6 27.Rbe1 b4 28.cxb4 Rxb4 29.h3 Rb7=]

21...a5 22.Nd4 Rae8 23.exf6 Rxf6 24.Qb5 Qxb5 25.Nxb5 Bd7 26.Rxe8+ Bxe8 27.Nc7 Bc6

[27...Rc6 28.Nxe8 Kf7 29.Nxg7 Kxg7 30.g3]

28.Rxa5± ½ (91) Ponomariov,R (2677)-Kortschnoj,V (2639) Donetsk 2001

[127] **12.Nxe4** leads to a slightly better ending after 12...dxe4 13.Qxd7

[13.Bxe6 Qxe6 14.Nd4 Qd5 *(14...Nxd4 15.cxd4 c5 16.dxc5 Qxe5 17.b4 Rfd8 18.Qc2 Rd3 19.a4 Rad8 20.axb5 axb5 21.Ra5 h5 22.Rxb5± 0-1 (75)* Riff,J (2498)-Sanal,V (2502) Chess.com INT 2018*)* 15.Nxc6 Qxc6 16.Qg4 Rad8= ½-½ Nunn,J-Holzke,F/Germany 2002/EXT 2003 (29) 17.Rae1 Qg6 18.Qxg6 fxg6 19.Bc1 Bc5 20.g4 e3 21.Bxe3 Bxe3 22.fxe3 Rd2= ½ (29) Nunn,J (2584)-

Holzke,F (2468) Germany 2002]

13...Bxd7 14.e6!?

[14.Rfd1!? Rad8 15.Rxd7!? Mikhalevski,V: 'This blow is working thanks to the position of black king on g8.Below you can find a position with the king on h8.Then it won't work.' '!' This blow is working thanks to the position of black king on g8. Below you can find a position with the king on h8.Then it won't work. *(15.Ng5 Nxe5 16.Nxe4 Bc8 17.Bc5 Bxc5 18.Nxc5 Nd7 19.Nxd7 Rxd7 20.Rxd7 Bxd7 21.f3 Rd8 22.Rd1 Kf8 23.Kf2 Ke7 24.Ke3 c5 25.Rd5 Rc8 26.g3* ½-½ Wessbecher,H-Rothacher,D/Germany 1993/GER (26) *)* 15...Rxd7 16.e6 exf3 *(⌓16...Rd3 17.exf7+ Kh8 18.Nd2 Na5!)* 17.exd7

A) ⌓17...Rd8 18.Rd1 Bd6 *(18...Nb8!? 19.Bf4 Rxd7 20.Rxd7 Nxd7 21.Bxc7±)*;

B) 17...Ne5 18.Rd1 Rd8 19.Bf4 Bd6 20.Bxe5 Bxe5 21.Re1+- Hansen,M-Nielsen,J/DEN 1989/ (25)' 1-0 Hansen,M-Nielsen,J/DEN 1989/ (25)]

[14.Nd2 Nxe5 15.Nxe4 Bc6 16.Ng3 Nd3 17.Nf5 Rfe8 18.Rab1 Bf8 19.Rfd1 Be4 20.Ng3 Bg6 21.h4 h5 22.Bd5 Rad8 23.Bf3 Bd6 24.Ne2 Ne5 25.Rbc1 Nc4∓ 0-1 Rosen,L-Lasker,E/Paris 1900/HCL (56)]

14...Bxe6 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Nd2 Ne5 17.Nxe4 Nd3 Mikhalevski,V: 'The same position with white rook on e1 and black king on h8 you can find after 12. ♖e1 ♔h8 13.♘:e4'

[17...Nc4!? 18.Bc1 Rf5

A) 19.Re1 Rd8 *(19...Rd5 20.b3 Na3 21.Bxa3 Bxa3 22.Kf1 Be7 23.Rac1 Kf7 24.f3 h6 25.Ke2± ½* (106) Damljanovic,B (2582)-Pavlovic,M (2457) Mataruska Banja 2008*)* 20.b3 Nd6 21.Nxd6 Bxd6 22.Be3 Kf7 23.a4 Bc5 24.g4 Re5 25.Bxc5 Rxc5 26.axb5 axb5 27.Re3 h5 28.h3 ½-½ (28) Erenburg,S (2573)-Fressinet,L (2625) Reykjavik 2006;

B) 19.a4 Raf8 20.axb5 ½-½ (20) Asrian,K (2645)-Ivanchuk,V (2748) Stepanakert 2005;

C) 19.b3 Nd6 20.Ng3 Rd5 21.Be3 Bf6= 0-1 Thipsay,P-Sasikiran,K/Guntur, AP IND 2000/ (62) 22.Rac1 Kf7 23.Rc2 Rd8 24.Re1 Rd3 25.Bd4 Rd7 26.Ne2 Nf5 27.Bxf6 gxf6 28.g3 e5 29.b4 Rd1 30.Kf1 h5∓ 0-1 Thipsay,P-Sasikiran,K/Guntur, AP IND 2000/ (62)]

18.b3± Ravi,T-Dridi,A/Moscow 1994 Ravi,T-Dridi,A/Moscow 1994 ½-½

12.h3 Bf5

[12...Rad8

A) 13.Bc2

A1) 13...Bf5 14.Nxe4 *(14.Nd4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 c5 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.dxc5 Qc7 18.Qc1 Qxe5 19.b4 Be6 20.a4 Bc4 21.Re1 f5 22.axb5 axb5 23.Bf4 Qc3=* 1-0 (82) Jakubowski,K (2510)-Bulski,K (2549) Czech Republic 2012 *)* 14...Bxe4 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Qxd7 Rxd7 17.e6 fxe6 18.Nd2 Ne5 19.b3 Ba3 20.Nxe4 Rd5 21.Rad1 a5 22.Rd2 Rxd2 23.Bxd2± ½ (56) Inarkiev,E (2656)-Sokolov,I (2657) Budva 2009;

A2) 13...Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Bf5 15.Rad1 Qe6 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 f6

18.Bf4 c5 19.exf6 Qxf6 20.Be5 Qg6 21.Bxf5 Qxf5 22.Qe2 Rfe8 23.f4 cxd4 24.Qd3 Qxd3 25.Rxd3 Bd6 ½-½ (25) Van den Doel,E (2571)-L'Ami,E (2550) Enschede 2006;

A3) 13...f5 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Ng5 Bf5 16.Bxf5 Qxf5 17.Qb1 Qd7 18.a4 Bd6 19.axb5 axb5 20.Ngf3 Ne7 21.Qd3 c5 22.Rfe1= 0-1 (40) Kengis,E (2575)-Anand,V (2715) Riga 1995;

B) 13.Nd4 Nxd2 14.Qxd2 Na5 15.f4 c5 16.Nxe6 Qxe6 17.Qf2 Nxb3 18.axb3 Rc8 19.f5 Qxe5 20.Rxa6 Bd6 21.Rd1 Rfe8 22.Qf3 Bb8 23.Kf2 ½-½ (23) Bartel,M (2569)-Sulypa,O (2478) Warsaw 2006]

[12...Nxd2 13.Qxd2 Na5 14.Rad1 Rad8 *(14...Nc4 15.Qc1 c5 16.Bg5 Bxg5 17.Nxg5 Nxe5 18.Qe3 Nc4 19.Bxc4 bxc4 20.Qxc5 Rab8 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.Qxc4 dxc4 23.Rxd7 Rxb2=* ½ (30) Kevlishvili,R (2451)-Stevic,H (2587) Skopje 2018 *)* 15.Bc2 Nc4 16.Qc1 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 c5 18.Ng5 Bxg5 19.Qxg5 d4 20.cxd4 cxd4 21.Rd2 Qc7 22.Rfd1 h6 23.Qg3± ½ (47) Kevlishvili,R (2451)-Matlakov,M (2700) St Petersburg 2018]

13.Re1 Rad8 14.a4 b4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Qxd7 Bxd7 17.Nd2 bxc3 18.bxc3 Nxe5 19.Nxe4 Nd3 20.Re2 Bc6 21.Bd4 Rfe8 22.f3 Nf4∓ 0-1 (51) Inarkiev,E (2676)-Najer,E (2669) Dagomys 2009 23.Re3 Bd5∓ 0-1 (51) Inarkiev,E (2676)-Najer,E (2669) Dagomys 2009

12.Nd4 Nxd2 13.Qxd2 Nxe5 14.f4 Nc4 15.Bxc4 dxc4 16.f5 Bd5 17.Rad1 Be4 18.Bh6 gxh6 19.Qxh6 Kh8 20.Rde1 Bd5 21.f6 Rg8 22.Rf5 Bf8 23.Qh4 Rxg2+ 24.Kf1 Rg6 25.Rh5 h6 26.Ree5 Bg2+ 27.Kf2 Qd6 28.Rhf5 Rd8 0-1 (28) Bosiocic,M (2607)-Ivanchuk,V (2727) Mali Losinj 2017

Another theoretical line goes with **12.Re1** Much more popular is The main line goes with 12...Rad8 Postny: 'This position can arise after various orders of moves, for example: white can play c2-c3 before Bc1-e3, or black can play Ra8-d8 before castling etc...

[12...Kh8 13.Nxe4 *(13.Qe2 f5 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Bg5 Bg8∓* Stisis,Y-Mikhalevski,A/ISR-ch/1992*; 13.Bc2 f5 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Nb3 Bg4 16.Bc5 Bd6∞* Sanchez Aleyra,J-Mikhalevski,A/Biel/1992*)* 13...dxe4 14.Qxd7 Bxd7 15.Red1 '!?' Interesting idea.See above the same one with black king on g8(12. ♘:e4) '!?' Mikhalevski,V: 'Interesting idea.See above the same one with black king on g8(12. ♘:e4)' Rad8 16.Ng5 Nxe5 17.Nxe4 Bc8= Gurevich,G-Mikhalevski,A/ISR-ch/1992]

[12...Nxd2 13.Qxd2 Na5

A) 14.Bg5 This rather peaceful line for white is not without venom as he can try to benefit from kingside attack chances.

A1) 14...Bxg5 15.Qxg5 Nxb3 16.axb3 Bg4 17.Nh4 h6 18.Qe3 g5 19.Nf3 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Rfe8 21.Qe3 Qf5 22.Qd4± ½- (54) ½ (54) Inarkiev,E (2597)-L'Ami,E (2550) Kusadasi 2006;

A2) 14...Nc4N 15.Bxc4 bxc4 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.b4! cxb3 18.axb3 c5 19.Ra5 *(19.Ra3 Rfb8 20.Rea1 Rb6 21.h3 h6 22.Qd3 Qc7 23.Qe3* ½ (42) Yu,S (2524)-Szabo,K (2482) Paks 2007 *Qc6 24.Ra5 Rc8 25.R1a3=*

½ (42) Yu,S (2524)-Szabo,K (2482) Paks 2007 *)* 19...Rab8 *(19...Rfb8 20.Qa2 Qc7=)* 20.Qa2 d4 21.cxd4 Rxb3 22.Qa1 Rxf3! Les noirs forcent la nulle car le K blanc sera trop exposé. 23.gxf3 Qg5+ 24.Kh1 Bd5 ½-½ (24) Kotronias,V (2620)-Sokolov,I (2689) France 2006;

A3) 14...c5 15.Bc2 Nc4

A3a) 16.Qf4 Rfe8 17.Bf6 Qd8 18.b3 Na3 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Bf5 *(20.Bd3 a5 21.Ng5 h6 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.c4 bxc4 24.bxc4 Qg5 25.Qf3 Nxc4 26.Bxc4 dxc4 27.Qe4 Rad8* ½-½ (27) Balogh,C (2575)-Mikhalevski, V (2632) Heviz 2008*)* 20...Bxf5 21.Qxf5 Qe6 22.Qd3 a5 23.Rad1= ½ (31) Kamsky,G (2671)-Carlsen,M (2646) Turin 2006;

A3b) 16.Qd3 g6 17.b3

A3b1) 17...Bf5!?

A3b11) 18.Qd1 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Bxg5 20.Nxg5 *(20.bxc4 Be7 21.cxd5 Qxd5=)* 20...Nxe5 21.Rxe5 f6 22.Nxh7 Kxh7 23.Re2 Rae8=;

A3b12) 18.Qe2! Bxc2 19.bxc4 Be4 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Nd2**±**;

A3b2) 17...Na3 Unfortunatelly for Sutovsky obtaining equality is not so easy in this position. The dark sqaures on the kingside are vulnerable. 18.Bd1 a5 19.Rc1 Rfe8 20.Qd2! b4?! This move might be the reason for black's suffering, more cautious 20...a4!? seems to have been a better bet. *(20...a4!? 21.Bxe7 Qxe7 22.bxa4 bxa4=)* 21.Bxe7 Qxe7 *(21...bxc3? 22.Qh6 Qxe7 23.Ng5+-)* 22.cxb4 *(22.Qh6 Qf8 23.Qxf8+ Rxf8 24.cxb4 cxb4 25.Nd4 Rfc8 26.Bf3 Rc3 27.Ne2±)* 22...axb4 *(22...cxb4 23.Nd4±)* 23.Qh6 Bf5 24.Be2 The tricky computer programms can reveal the subtle way forward for white. The rook should have gotten the preference on e2 square. *(24.Re2!? f6 25.exf6 Qxf6 26.Rxc5 Rxe2 27.Bxe2 Qe7 28.Ng5 Nb1!? 29.h3 Nc3 30.Bf3 Rxa2 31.Bxd5+ Nxd5 32.Rxd5±)*

A3b21) 24...f6 25.Qd2! *(25.exf6 Qxf6 26.Rxc5 Nc2 27.Rc7 Qh8! 28.Rxc2 Bxc2 29.Qd2 Qc3 30.Qxd5+ Kh8 31.Bf1=)* 25...fxe5 26.Qxd5+ Kg7 27.Bf1**±**;

A3b22) 24...Qf8 25.Qxf8+ Kxf8 26.Rxc5 Nc2= 1-0 (43) Jakovenko, D (2691)-Sutovsky,E (2629) Poikovsky 2007 27.Rc1 Rxa2= 1-0 (43) Jakovenko,D (2691)-Sutovsky,E (2629) Poikovsky 2007;

B) 14.Bc2 Nc4 15.Qd3 g6 16.Bh6 *(16.Qd4 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 Rfd8 18.Rad1 Qe8 19.Qf4 Rd7 20.g4 c5 21.h4 Rad8 22.g5 Qf8 23.Nh2 d4 24.cxd4 Rxd4 25.Rxd4 Rxd4* 0-1 Guerra,M-De Castro Rubio,D/Sao Paulo 1960/ (55)*; 16.b3 Bf5 17.Qd1 Nxe3 18.Rxe3 Bg4 19.h3 Be6 20.Qd2 c5 21.Rd1 a5 22.Re2 Rad8=* 0-1 Zhang Zhong (2598)-Sokolov,I (2696)/Khanty Mansiysk 2005/ (51)*)* 16...Nxb2 17.Qd2 *(17.Qd4 Rfe8 18.Ng5 Nc4 19.Rad1 Na3 20.Bd3 c5 21.Qf4 Qc6* 1/2 Gligoric,S (2575)-Unzicker,W/Tel Aviv 1964/ (84)*)* 17...Rfe8 18.Qf4 Nc4 *(18...Rab8 19.a3 Rb6 20.Bg5 Bf8 21.Bh6 Be7 22.Bg5 Rc6 23.Qc1 Na4 24.Bxa4 bxa4 25.Bxe7 Qxe7 26.Rb1 Rb6 27.Rb4*

Reb8 ½-½ (27) Perunovic,M (2570)-Predojevic,B (2641) Nova Gorica 2008 *)* 19.h4 Bf5 20.Ng5 Bf8 21.Bxf8 Rxf8 22.Bb3 h6 23.Nf3= 1-0 (39) Svidler,P (2723)-Cuenca Jimenez,J (2535) chess24.com INT 2020 Kh7 24.Rad1 c6 25.Bxc4 bxc4∓ 1-0 (39) Svidler,P (2723)-Cuenca Jimenez,J (2535) chess24.com INT 2020 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-9.Be3 Be7 10.c3 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik]]

[12...Bg4 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Qxd7 Bxd7 15.e6 Bxe6 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Nd2 Ne5 18.Nxe4 Nd3 19.Re2 c5 20.Kf1 c4 21.Rc2 Rfc8 22.b3 a5 23.Ke2 cxb3 24.axb3 Nb4 25.Rb2 Nd5 26.Bd2 Nf6 27.Ng5 Nd5 28.Ne4 Nf6 29.Ng5 Nd5 30.Ne4 ½-½ (30) Sadler,M (2637)-Ernst,S (2552) Wolvega 2012]

13.Bc2

[13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Qxd7 Bxd7 15.Nd2 *(15.e6 Bxe6 16.Bxe6 exf3 17.Bh3 f5 18.gxf3 Ne5 19.Kg2 Nd3 20.Re2 g6 21.Rd2 Nc5 22.Bxc5 Bxc5∓* 1-0 (72) Kritz,L (2578)-Mikhalevski,V (2566) Las Vegas 2006 *23.Rad1 Rxd2 24.Rxd2 Re8∓* 1-0 (72) Kritz,L (2578)-Mikhalevski,V (2566) Las Vegas 2006*)* 15...Nxe5 16.Nxe4 Nd3 17.Re2 c5 18.Bc2 c4 19.Bxd3 cxd3 20.Rd2 Bf5 21.f3 Rfe8 22.Rad1 Bxe4 23.fxe4= ½ (48) Renet,O (2539)-Huebner,R (2611) Switzerland 2015 Bf8 24.Rxd3 Rxd3 25.Rxd3 Rxe4 26.Kf2= ½ (48) Renet,O (2539)-Huebner,R (2611) Switzerland 2015]

[13.Nd4 Nxd2 14.Nxc6 Qxc6 15.Qxd2 Qb7 16.Bc2 c5 17.Qd3 g6 18.Bh6 Rfe8 19.Qg3 d4 20.h4 c4 21.Be4 Bd5∓ 0-1 (40) Bartel,M (2440)-Mamedyarov,S (2580) Heraklion 2002 22.Bf5 d3 23.h5= 0-1 (40) Bartel,M (2440)-Mamedyarov,S (2580) Heraklion 2002]

13...Bf5!?

[13...Nxd2 14.Qxd2

A) 14...Bg4 15.Qd3! '!' g6 16.Bh6 Rfe8 17.Rad1

A1) 17...Na5 18.h3

A1a) 18...Bf5 Tischbierek 19.Qd4 c5 *(19...Nc6 20.Qd2)* 20.e6 cxd4 21.exd7 Bxd7 22.Rxe7 Rxe7 23.Bg5 Rde8 24.Bxe7 Rxe7 25.Nxd4±;

A1b) 18...Bxf3 19.Qxf3 c5 20.Qg3→ Nc4 21.b3 Na3 22.e6! Qc6 *(22...fxe6?? 23.Bxg6+-)* 23.Bf5!+- 1-0 (35) Kamsky,G (2710)-Piket,J (2670) Dos Hermanas 1995 Bf6 24.Bg5 *(24.Bc1!? Tischbierek)* 24...Bxg5 25.Qxg5 Idee 26.e:f7+ ♔:f7 27.♗e6+/♖e6!

A1b1) 25...fxe6 Ernst 26.Rxe6! Rd6 27.Rxe8+ Qxe8 28.Bg4+- × d5,♘a3;

A1b2) 25...f6 Tischbierek 26.Qxf6 gxf5 *(26...Rf8 27.Qg5)* 27.Rd3+-;

A1b3) 25...Kg7 Tischbierek 26.exf7 Kxf7 27.Re6!;

A1b4) 25...Rd6 26.Qf6!+- 1-0 (35) Kamsky,G (2710)-Piket,J (2670) Dos Hermanas 1995;

A2) 17...Bf5 18.Qd2 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Bf8 20.Qd2±;

A3) 17...d4 18.Bb3 Bf5 19.Qd2 Na5 20.Bxf7+ Kxf7 21.e6+ Qxe6 22.Rxe6 Bxe6 23.Ng5+ Bxg5 24.Qxg5+- 1-0 (30) Dgebuadze,A (2535)-Graf,A (2604) Kusadasi 2006;

B) 14...Bf5 '=' Ernst is the regular line. Ernst '=' is the regular line.

B1) 15.h3 Be4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Qxd7 Rxd7 18.e6 fxe6 19.Nd2 Ne5 ½-½ Madl,I-Karsa,L/Zalakaros op 1991;

B2) 15.Bxf5!?N Mikhalevski,V Qxf5 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 c5! 18.dxc5 *(18.Qa5 Qe6 19.dxc5 d4 20.Bd2 Bxc5= ½-½ Kholmov,R-Shurygin,S/Decin 1996/CBM 53 ext (56))* 18...d4 19.Bf4 Bxc5 20.Rac1 Rc8 *(20...Bb6 21.Rc6)* 21.h3 *(21.Bg3!?)* 21...Bb6= 22.Bg3 h6 23.Qb4?! *(23.Kh2!? Δf4/d3)* 23...d3 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.Qd6?! *(25.Rd1!?)* 25...Ba5 26.b4 *(26.Rd1 d2 27.b4 Rd8)* 26...Rd8 27.Qc5 d2 28.Rd1 Qe4-+ 0-1 Kharlov,A-Krasenkow,M/Rostov op 1993 (45);

B3) 15.Rad1

B3a) 15...Rfe8 Tested twice in the candidates match Dolmatov-Yusupov 1991. Game three of the match was drawn, game five won be white.

B3a1) 16.Bf4N Qe6 17.Bg3 Qg6 18.Bxf5 Qxf5 19.Qe3!± Bf8 *(19...Qg6!? 20.Nd4 Bc5)* 20.h3 *(20.Nd4 Qg6 21.f4)* 20...h6 *(20...Qg6)* 21.Nd4 Qg6 22.f4 Nxd4 23.cxd4 c5 24.dxc5 Bxc5 *(24...d4 25.Qf3±)* 25.Qxc5 Qxg3

B3a11) 26.Rf1 d4 27.Rf3 Qg6 28.Rfd3 *(28.f5 Qg5 29.Rxd4 Rc8)* 28...Qe6 29.Rxd4 Rxd4 30.Rxd4 Qxa2±;

B3a12) 26.Qf2± ½-½ (41) Lautier,J-Krasenkow,M/Erevan olm 1996;

B3a2) 16.h3 h6 *(16...Qe6 16. - h6 17.♗f4 Dolmatov,S-Yusupov,A, (m3) Wijk 1991 17.Bg5 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Qg6 19.Qxg6 hxg6 20.Bf4 Bc5 21.Nd4 Nxd4 22.cxd4 Bb6 23.Re2± 1-0 Dolmatov,S-Jussupow,A/Wijk cm1 1991 (61))*

B3a21) 17.Bf4

B3a211) 17...Qe6 18.Bg3 Qg6 19.Bxf5 Qxf5 20.Qe3 Bf8 21.Nd4

B3a2111) 21...Qg6 22.f4 Nxd4 23.cxd4 c5 24.dxc5 Bxc5 *(24...d4 25.Qf3±)* 25.Qxc5 Qxg3 26.Qf2 *(26.Rf1 d4 27.Rf3 Qg6 28.Rfd3 Qe6 29.Rxd4 Rxd4 30.Rxd4 Qxa2±)* 26...Qxf2+ 27.Kxf2± ½-½ (41) Lautier,J-Krasenkow,M/Erevan olm 1996 d4! 28.Ke2 *(28.Re4 f6 29.Rexd4 Rxd4 30.Rxd4 fxe5 31.Re4 Rf8=; 28.Kf3 g5!)* 28...g5 *(28...f6 29.Kd3 fxe5 30.Rxe5 Rxe5 31.fxe5 Rf8 32.Rd2 Rf4=)* 29.g3± ½-½ (41) Lautier,J-Krasenkow,M/Erevan olm 1996;

B3a2112) 21...Nxd4 22.cxd4 Be7 23.Qc3 Qe6 24.Rc1 c5 25.dxc5 d4 26.Qd3± 1-0 (35) Anand,V-Kamsky,G/Monaco rapid 1995 Qxa2 27.c6+- 1-0 (35) Anand,V-Kamsky,G/Monaco rapid 1995;

B3a212) 17...Bf8 18.Bg3 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Qe6 20.Nd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Rc8 22.f4 c5 22. - f5 23. ♗f2 23.f5 cxd4 24.Qd3± ½-½ Dolmatov,S-Jussupow,A/Wijk cm1 1991 (47);

B3a22) 17.Bxf5 Qxf5 18.Nd4 Qg6 19.f4 Nxd4 20.cxd4 c5 21.Qf2

c4 22.f5 Qh5 23.Qf1+- 1-0 (39) Bruzon Batista,L (2691)-Sulskis,S (2559) Montreal 2013;

B3b) 15...Bxc2 A relatively new idea and somewhat more active style of play than what was played before. Hansen,Cu: 'A relatively new idea and somewhat more active style of play than what was played before. A relatively new idea and somewhat more active style of play than what was played before. This move was tried out twice by Mikhalevski recently. 16.Qxc2±

B3b1) 16...f6 17.exf6 Bxf6

B3b11) 18.Bg5! h6 *(18...Bxg5? 19.Nxg5 Qf5 20.Qxf5 Rxf5 21.Ne6±)* 19.Bxf6 Rxf6±;

B3b12) 18.Bc5 Rfe8

B3b121) 19.h3 Mikhalevski,V

B3b1211) ⌓19...Ne5 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 *(20...Rxe5!?)* 21.Re2 c6 22.Rde1 Bf6;

B3b1212) 19...Rxe1+?! 20.Rxe1 Re8 *(20...Ne7!?)* 21.Rxe8+ Qxe8 22.Qf5± ½-½ Golod,V-Mikhalevski,V/Festival Beersheba X 1997 (28) ½-½ Golod,V (2515)-Mikhalevski,V (2535)/ Beersheba 1997/ (28);

B3b122) ⌓19.Rxe8+! Rxe8 20.Qd3

B3b1221) 20...Ne5 21.Qxd5+ *(21.Nxe5 Bxe5!= △22.Qxd5+ Qxd5 23.Rxd5 Bxc3)* 21...Qxd5 22.Rxd5 Nxf3+ 23.gxf3± △Re2 *(23...Re5!? 24.Rxe5 Bxe5 25.Bd4! Bd6±)* 24.Ba3;

B3b1222) 20...Rd8 21.Re1±;

B3b123) 19.h3±;

B3b2) 16...Rfe8!? 17.Ng5 Bxg5 18.Bxg5 Rb8 19.f4∞ 1-0 Bojkovic,N-Forgo,E/EU-chTW Debrecen 1992 (39);

B3b3) 16...Qg4 17.h3 Qe4 *(17...Qh5* Mikhalevski,V*)* 18.Qd2 Nxe5□ The idea of blacks ♕-manouvre. Whites strong e5- ♙ disappears. White now has the choice between winning material and having the better ♙-structure. *(18...Qg6* Mikhalevski,V *19.Qd3!±)* 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 20.Bf4 *(20.Bc5 Qxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Bxc5* Black is controlling the white Squares with his ♙s and the black squares with his ♗. Without having any weaknesses. He should not have problems drawing.*)* 20...Qf6 21.Bxc7 Rd7 22.Be5± ½ (41) Khalifman,A (2650)-Mikhalevski,V (2535) Linares 1997;

B3c) 15...Na5 Mikhalevski,V 16.Nd4 Be4 17.Bxe4 dxe4 18.Qc2 Nc4 19.Bf4 c5 20.e6 fxe6 21.Ne2 Qc6 22.Rxd8 Bxd8 23.b3 e3!∓ Cherniaev,A-Krasenkow,M/Moscow ZSKS 1992/0-1 (55);

B3d) 15...Qe6 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.cxd4 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 c6 19.f4 f5 20.Rc1 Rc8 21.Qd2 Ra8 22.Rc2 a5 23.Rec1± 1-0 (42) Jakovenko,D (2698)-Xu,M (2406) China 2019]

[More aggressive alternative is 13...f5 '!?' Mikhalevski,V 14.exf6 Nxf6

mit leichtem weißen Vorteil, doch unklarerem Spiel 15.a4 Postny: 'Opening the "a" file for the rook.' *(15.Ng5 Bf5 16.Bxf5 Qxf5 17.Qb1 Qd7 18.Bf4 Bd6 19.Bxd6 Qxd6 20.Re6 Qd7 21.Nb3 d4 22.Nc5+-* 1-0 (37) Sadvakasov,D (2626)-Nielsen, P (2652) Copenhagen 2004 *Qd5 23.Rxf6 Rxf6 24.Qxh7+ Kf8 25.Qh8+ Qg8 26.Nh7+ Ke7 27.Qxg8+-* 1-0 (37) Sadvakasov,D (2626)-Nielsen,P (2652) Copenhagen 2004*; 15.Qb1 h6 16.Nh4 Ne5 17.Nb3 Nfg4 18.Nc5 Qc8 19.Nxe6 Qxe6 20.Bh7+ Kh8∓* Georgiev,Kir-Ivanchuk,V Manila ol 1992 Georgiev,Kir-Ivanchuk,V Manila ol 1992 Inf 55/337/ *21.Bg5!⇄)*

A) 15...Bf5!? 16.axb5 axb5 17.Bxf5 Qxf5 18.Ra6 Nb8 19.Ra5 b4 20.Bc5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 bxc3 22.bxc3 ½-½ Brodsky,M-Ernst,S/Dieren 2001/CBM 83 ext (22) ½-½ Brodsky,M-Ernst,S/Dieren 2001/ (22);

B) 15...Bd6?! 16.axb5 axb5 17.Bd3 Rb8 18.Qe2

B1) 18...Nd8N 19.b4!± Fixing the pawnstructure on the queenside. Bg4 This move is not to the point. *(* It's recommended for black to exchange the light-squared bishops by *19...Bf5)* 20.h3 Bh5? Black is insisting to keep the pin on the h5-d1 diagonal, which gives him absolutely nothing. *(* It was the last chance to go for the correct *20...Bf5)* 21.Qf1! Unpinning the knight. c6 *(*Probably the least of the evils for black was *21...Bxf3!? 22.Nxf3 Ne4)* 22.Nd4 Bc7? Another mistake. It was necessary to keep the c7 square for the queen. *(22...Qc7±)* 23.Bf5 This manoeuvre became possible after black has transfered his bishop to a useless h5 square. Qf7 *(23...Qd6 24.g3 Rf7 25.Ra7+-)* 24.Ra6 Black is not able to prevent material losses. g6 An ugly move, especially when it leaves the ♙h5 with no place to retreat. On the other hand, there was no significant improvement anyway. 25.Bd3 Qd7 26.Nxc6! White had numerous attractive continuations, but this is the most effective one. Nxc6 27.Bxb5 Rxb5 *(27...Qd6 28.g3+-)* 28.Qxb5 Nb8 29.Qxd7 Nfxd7 30.Ra7 1-0 Timoshenko,G (2536)-Amin,B (2425)/Ismailia 2004/ (45);

B2) 18...Ne7? 19.Ba7 Rb7 20.Qxe6+ Qxe6 21.Rxe6 Ra8 22.Rae1 Raxa7 23.Rxe7 Bxe7 24.Rxe7± ½ (64) Timoshenko,G (2550)-Mikhalevski,V (2495) Kiev 1995 ½-½ Timoshenko,G-Mikhalevski,V/Kiev 1995/ (64);

C) Postny: Deserves further investigation 15...Ng4!? 16.axb5 axb5 17.Bd4 Opening the "e" file for the rook. *(17.Bd3 Nce5 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Bxh7+ Kxh7 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.Qxe5 Rf5 22.Qg3±* 1-0 (48) Motylev,A (2677)-Ernst,S (2606) Wijk aan Zee 2012 *Bd6 23.f4±* 1-0 (48) Motylev,A (2677)-Ernst,S (2606) Wijk aan Zee 2012 *)*

C1) 17...Bd6? 18.Bxh7+! Kxh7 19.Rxe6 Nxd4 *(19...Bxh2+ 20.Nxh2 Qxe6 21.Nxg4+-)* 20.cxd4 Qxe6 *(⌓20...Kg8)* 21.Ng5+ Kg8 22.Nxe6 Bxh2+ 23.Kh1 Nxf2+ 24.Kxh2 Nxd1 25.Rxd1+-;

C2) 17...Bf5 18.Bxf5 Qxf5 19.h3±;

C3) 17...Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Qd6! The only reasonable continuation. *(18...Nxf2? 19.Qh5 Ne4 20.Nxe4 Bg4 21.Nf6+ Rxf6 22.Qxh7+ Kf7 23.Rf1+-; 18...Bh4? 19.g3 Nxf2 20.Qh5 Nh3+ 21.Kg2 Rf2+ 22.Kh1+-; 18...Bd6?*

19.N2f3) 19.N2f3 Bd7 20.h3 Nxf2! Great sacrifice by Shirov, though it's practically forced. *(*Of course, Shirov did not want to suffer after *20...Nf6 21.Ne5)* 21.Kxf2

C3a) The right move was 21...c5! 22.Qd3 *(22.Nb3? Rxf3+ 23.Qxf3 Rf8 24.Ra8 Rxa8 25.Rxe7 Qxe7 26.Qxd5+ Qf7+∓; 22.Ne2? Rxf3+! 23.gxf3 Qh2+ 24.Ke3 Bg5+ 25.f4 Re8+-+; 22.Kg1!? cxd4 23.Nxd4* with approximate equality.*; 22.Rxe7 Qxe7 23.Ne2 d4!∓)* 22...g6

C3a1) 23.Nxb5?! Bxb5 24.Qxb5 Bh4+ 25.Kg1 Rxf3!∓;

C3a2) 23.Rxe7 Qxe7 with advantage for black. Now 24.Nxb5 is losing to *(24.Ne2 Bf5∓* now the drawback of 22.Qd3 is clear.*)* 24...Rxf3+! 25.gxf3 Qh4+ 26.Ke2 Re8+ 27.Kd2 Qg5+ 28.f4 Qxf4+ 29.Kd1 Bxb5 30.Qxd5+ Kh8-+;

C3a3) 23.Kg1 cxd4 24.Nxd4=;

C3b) 21...Bh4+? This obvious check is a mistake! 22.Kg1 Bxe1 23.Qxe1 c5 Now it's too late already... 24.Nb3 Bxh3 Probably Shirov was counting on this move, but now the position transforms to a bad endgame for black. *(*The alternatives does not solve black's problems: *24...Rde8 25.Qf2; 24...Bf5 25.Bxf5 Rxf5 26.Qe3)* 25.Ng5 Bf5 26.Bxf5 Rxf5 27.Qe6+ Qxe6 28.Nxe6 Re8 29.Nbxc5± 1-0 (40) Kasparov,G (2813)-Shirov,A (2726) Izmir 2004 CBM 104 [Postny,E] At the end of the storm white got a winning position thanks to a superb coordination of his pieces. Still, white has to play precisely. Re5 30.Ra6!± 1-0 Kasparov,G (2813)-Shirov,A (2726)/Izmir 2004/ (40) *(30.Nd4?!* allows black to exchange the rooks and get some survival chances: *Re1+ 31.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 32.Kf2 Rc1)*]

14.Nxe4 After the following massive exchanges whites gets only a minimal advantage. However, the alternatives are not troublesome for black.

[14.Rc1 Bg6 15.Bd4 Ng5 16.a4 Ne6 17.axb5 axb5 18.Be3 d4 19.cxd4 Ncxd4 20.Nxd4 Nxd4 21.Bxg6 hxg6 ½-½ (21) Nisipeanu,L (2695)-Predojevic,B (2566) Sarajevo 2006]

[14.Nb3 Bg6 15.Nbd4 Na5 16.e6 Qd6 17.exf7+ Rxf7 18.a4 Nc4 19.axb5 Nxe3 20.Rxe3 axb5 21.Nxb5 Qb6 22.Nbd4 c5 23.Nb3 Bf6⩲ 0-1 Fedorowicz,J-Kamsky,G/Los Angeles 1991/CBM 25 (54)]

[14.a4 b4 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Qxd7 Rxd7 18.e6 fxe6 19.Nd2 Ne5 20.Nxe4 Nc4 21.cxb4 Bxb4 22.Re2= ½ (70) Fressinet,L (2626)-Rohit,G (2401) Paris 2006]

14...Bxe4 15.Bxe4

[15.Ng5 Bxg5 16.Bxg5 Qf5! 17.Bxe4 *(17.Rxe4 Qxg5 18.h4 Qh6 19.Rg4 Nxe5 20.Rg5 Qf6 21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Qh5+ Kg8 23.Rxe5 d4 24.cxd4 Rxd4∓* Fons Cervero,F-Sorin,A (2415) Olot 1992*)* 17...Qxg5 18.Bd3 Nxe5 19.h4 Qf6 20.Bxh7+ Kxh7 21.Qh5+ Kg8 22.Qxe5 Qxe5 23.Rxe5= ½ (31) Shirov,A (2651)-Tomczak,M (2394) Karlsruhe 2018 Rfe8 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Kf1 Kf8 26.a4 Re4= ½ (31) Shirov,A (2651)-Tomczak,M (2394) Karlsruhe 2018]

15...dxe4 16.Qxd7 Rxd7 17.e6 '!' '!' '!' This intermediate move breaks black's pawn

structure. 17...fxe6 18.Nd2 Ne5
[18...Rf5 19.Nxe4 Rfd5 20.f3 Kf7 21.Kf1 a5 22.Ke2 a4 23.b3 b4 24.Rec1 axb3 25.axb3 bxc3 26.Rxc3= ½ (33) Dominguez Perez,L (2677)-Bruzon Batista, L (2614) Santa Clara 2007]
[18...a5 19.a4 Rb8 20.axb5 Rxb5 21.Nc4 Ne5 22.Rxa5 Rxa5 23.Nxa5 Nd3 24.Rd1 Rd5 25.Nc4 Nxf2 26.Rxd5 exd5 27.Kxf2 dxc4= ½ (31) Perunovic,M (2580)-Fressinet,L (2676) Dresden 2008]
19.Nxe4 Nd3
[19...Nc4 20.b3 Nxe3 21.Rxe3 Rfd8 22.Kf1 Rd1+ *(22...h6 23.Ree1 Kf7 24.Ke2 Bf6 25.Rac1 Rd5 26.Rc2± ½ (82) Dominguez Perez,L (2758)-Khanin,S (2482) Chess.com INT 2020)* 23.Re1 R1d5 24.Rac1 R5d7 25.f3 Kf7 26.Ke2± ½ (93) Kosintseva,T (2532)-Koneru,H (2589) Kazan 2012]
[19...Rfd8 'N' 20.f3 Bh4 '?!' Postny: 'I don't like the idea of exchanging bishops.' *(20...Nd3 21.Re2 c5=)* 21.Bf2 Bxf2+ '?!' Postny. '?!' *(* It was possible to admit the inaccuracy made on the previous move by *21...Be7* but, Ponomariov is consequent.*)* 22.Nxf2 Postny: 'Without bishops it's easier for white to attack black's ♙e6 weakness.' Rd5 23.a4± Bruzon Bautista,L-Ponomariov,R/Mallorca 2004 Nc4? It's not clear what Ponomariov has missed, but after this move black's position seems to be beyond saving. *(*Logical was *23...Kf7 24.axb5 axb5 25.Ra7 R8d7* keeping worse, but defendable position.*)* 24.axb5 axb5 25.Rxe6 Nxb2 26.Rc6± 1-0 (39) Bruzon Batista,L (2637)-Ponomariov,R (2710) Mallorca 2004]
20.Re2 '±' Dolmatov,S-Yusupov,A Wijk aan Zee 1991/ 20...Rf5
[20...c5 21.g3 c4 22.b4 Rf5 23.a4 Kf7 24.axb5 axb5 25.Kg2 Re5 26.f3 Bf6 27.Ra3 h6 28.h3 Be7 29.Ra8 Bf6 30.Rb8 Rxe4 31.fxe4 Bxc3 32.Rxb5 Bxb4⩲ ½-½ Dolmatov,S-Jussupow,A/Wijk aan Zee 1991/Candidates (61)]
21.Kf1
[21.g3 Kf7 22.a4 h6 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra6 Re5± Shirov,A-Mamedyarov,S/ Izmir 2004 ½- (32) 25.f3 Red5± ½-½ Shirov,A-Mamedyarov,S/Izmir 2004/ (32)]
[21.f3 Rfd5 *(21...c5 22.b3 c4 23.b4 Bd8 24.a4 a5 25.bxa5 Bxa5 26.Rc2±* ½ (51) Korneev,O (2638)-Mikhalevski,V (2571) Montreal 2006 *Rfd5 27.Kf1 bxa4 28.Rxa4 Rb7 29.Rxc4±* ½ (51) Korneev,O (2638)-Mikhalevski,V (2571) Montreal 2006 *)* 22.a4 h6 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra6 Kf7 25.g3 Ne5 26.Kg2 b4 27.Bd4 Nc4 28.Rc6 Na5 29.Ra6 Nc4 30.Rc6 ½-½ (30) Dominguez Perez,L (2647)-Bruzon Batista,L (2652) Santa Clara 2006]
21...Kf7 22.Rd2 c5 23.f3 c4 24.Ke2 h6 25.b3 Ba3 26.Rc2± ½ (46) Leko,P (2735)-Akopian,V (2694) Astrakhan 2010 26...Bc5 27.Rb1 Bxe3 28.Kxe3 cxb3 29.axb3 Nc5= ½ (46) Leko,P (2735)-Akopian,V (2694) Astrakhan 2010

[128] **12...Nxd2** 42 13.Qxd2
[13.Bxd2 22:14 Bf5 2:46 14.Re1 4:57 Rfe8 20:36 15.Qb1 5:53 Bxc2 19 16.Qxc2 2 Nd8 7:28 17.Bg5 6:29 Bf8 14:32 18.Rad1 4:20 Ne6⇄ 51 19.Bh4 30 a5 5:10 20.Qd3 5:34 c6 56 21.Nd4 9 a4= 4:51 ½ (26) Bacrot,E (2714)-Wagner, D (2567) Brest 2018 22.Nf5 3:57 Nf4∓ 6:07 ½ (26) Bacrot,E (2714)-Wagner,D

(2567) Brest 2018]
13...Bg4
[13...Na5 14.Nd4 c5 15.Qd3 g6 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Bh6 Rf7 18.Qg3 Kh8 19.h4 Rg8 20.Rad1 Nc6 21.Rfe1 Bd8 22.Qh3= 1-0 (43) Giri,A (2791)-Pruijssers,R (2507) Amsterdam 2015 g5 23.hxg5 Bxg5 24.Rd3= 1-0 (43) Giri,A (2791)-Pruijssers,R (2507) Amsterdam 2015]
14.Bf4
[14.Qd3 g6 15.Bh6 *(15.Bf4 Bf5 16.Qd2 Bxc2 17.Qxc2 Nd8 18.Bh6 Re8 19.Rad1 Ne6 20.Rfe1 c5 21.h4 Rad8 22.h5 d4 23.cxd4 cxd4 24.Qe4 Qd5 25.Qg4 Qxa2 26.hxg6 hxg6∓ ½* (30) Asrian,K (2602)-Sorokin,M (2578) Moscow 2005 *27.Nh4 Bf8 28.Nf5 Ng7 29.Nxd4 Qxb2 30.Bg5 ½-½* (30) Asrian,K (2602)-Sorokin,M (2578) Moscow 2005*)* 15...Rfe8 16.Rfe1 Bf5 17.Qd2 Bxc2 18.Qxc2 Nd8 19.Rad1 Ne6 20.h4 c5 21.h5 Rad8 22.a4 bxa4= 0-1 (47) Kokarev,D (2638)-Short,N (2664) Kolkata 2015 23.Ra1 Rb8 24.Bc1= 0-1 (47) Kokarev,D (2638)-Short,N (2664) Kolkata 2015]
14...Bxf3 15.gxf3 Rad8 After 16.Rfd1
[16.Rad1 Rfe8 *(16...Qe6 17.Rfe1 Na5 18.b3 Nb7 19.Bg3 c6 20.f4 f5 21.exf6 Qxf6 22.Qd3 g6 23.f5 gxf5 24.Be5± 1-0 (57) Alekseenko,K (2638)-Sanal,V (2490) St Petersburg 2018)* 17.Rfe1 g6 18.Bg3 Qh3 *(⌓18...Bf8!? 19.Qg5 Qe6 20.Kg2 Ne7∞)* 19.f4 Bh4 20.a4! Ne7 21.Qe2 c6 22.Qe3 Nf5 23.Bxf5 gxf5
A) 24.Bxh4 Qxh4 25.axb5 axb5 26.Qg3+± *(26.Kh1!?±)*;
B) 24.Qb6?± 0-1 (38) Paehtz,E (2464)-Muzychuk,A (2582) Huaian 2017 24...Re6 25.Re3 Qg4 26.Rd2 Be7= 0-1 (38) Paehtz,E (2464)-Muzychuk,A (2582) Huaian 2017]
16...Qe6 17.Qe3 Black's play can be improved with 17...Rd7
[17...Na5! 18.b3 c5∞]
18.Bg3 g6 19.a4 Nd8 20.axb5 axb5 21.f4 f6 22.exf6 Qxf6 23.Qe2± 1-0 (32) Hou,Y (2673)-Muzychuk,M (2554) Lvov 2016 23...c6 24.Qg4± 1-0 (32) Hou,Y (2673)-Muzychuk,M (2554) Lvov 2016

[129] **14.Qb1** The idea of this move is to put pressure on black's kingside, as well as to prevent the exchange of light-squared bishops after Be6-f5. A typical idea in these positions. White takes control over the b1-h7-diagonal and prepares Ng5.
14...Kh8 Freeing the g8-square for a retreat of the light-squared bishop.
[14...h6
A) 15.Nb3 Ng4
A1) 16.Nc5 Bxc5 17.Bxc5 Rxf3 18.gxf3 Nge5 19.Qd1 Bh3 20.Re1 Qf7 21.Re3 Nc4 22.Qd3 1-0 (38) Huerga Leache,M (2450)-Vocaturo,D (2557) Atarrabia 2016 Qh5= *(22...g5 23.Rae1 Nxe3 24.Rxe3+-* 1-0 (38) Huerga Leache,M (2450)-Vocaturo,D (2557) Atarrabia 2016 *)*;
A2) 16.Nfd4 Qd6 17.g3 Nxe3 18.fxe3 Bg5 19.Re1 Ne5 20.Kh1 Rf2 21.Bh7+ Kh8 22.Bf5 Bxf5 23.Nxf5 Nf3 0-1 (23) Dragnev,V (2523)-Sindarov,

J (2639) Almaty 2022;
B) 15.Nh4 Bd6 16.Ndf3 Δ ♗f5 ±; Sax,G]

15.Ng5?! '?!' '?!' Postny: 'This active move is a source for white's problems.' doesn't reach the goal in view of This active move is a source for white's problems. doesn't reach the goal in view of

[15.Re1 This move turns out to be a novelty and as the game shows not a good one, though also in the earlier games White hadn't succeeded to show any advantage. Bd6 16.Nb3 White wants to trade one of the bishops and so Black played Bg4! moving it away from the attack.

A) In case of 17.Nc5 Black simply retreats with the queen. Qc8 and keeps the balance. Nevertheless it looks better than the game. *(*But not *17...Bxc5 18.Bxc5 Bxf3? 19.Bf5! Qf7 20.Bxf8±)*;

B) 17.Nfd4? A serious inaccuracy after which White has to fight for equality. 17...Ne7! Black retreats with the knight and prepares c5 which underlines incorrectness of 17.Nfd4. 18.f3 c5! A very strong intermediate move, which came as a surprise for White. *(*White was hoping for *18...Bh5 19.Nf5 Nxf5 20.Bxf5 Qf7 21.Nc5±* with a slight edge for White. *)*

B1) 19.Ne2? Qc7! 20.Bf4 *(20.fxg4?* is bad again this time in view of *Nxg4 21.Qc1 Bxh2+ 22.Kh1 Bg3-+)* 20...Bd7;

B2) Black is also fine after 19.Nxc5 Bxc5 20.fxg4 Nxg4 but at least White is not getting mated.;

B3) 19.fxg4? This mistake is already decisive and allows Black to win the game in style. 19...cxd4

B3a) 20.Nxd4 Changes nothing: Bxh2+! 21.Kxh2 *(* White also doesn't seem to survive after *21.Kh1 Bg3! 22.Re2 Nxg4-+)* 21...Nxg4+ 22.Kg1 Qd6;

B3b) 20.Bxd4 Bxh2+!

B3b1) Also accepting the sacrifice doesn't save 21.Kxh2 Nxg4+

B3b11) 22.Kg3 Qd6+ 23.Kxg4 Rf4+ 24.Kg3 *(24.Kh3 Qh6+ 25.Kg3 Qh4#)* 24...Rxd4+ 25.Kf2 Rf8+ 26.Bf5 *(26.Kg1 Rh4!-+)* 26...Rg4!-+;

B3b12) 22.Kh3! Probably the best defense, which however could only prolong the fight. 22...Nf2+ 23.Kh2 Qd6+ 24.Kg1 Ng4 25.Be5 Nxe5∓ and Black is a pawn up with attack.;

B3b2) 21.Kh1 Qxg4! Now Black's attack is unstoppable. 22.Re3 *(22.Kxh2 Qh4+ 23.Kg1 Ng4 24.Be5 Qf2+ 25.Kh1 Nf5! 26.Bxf5 Rxf5* and White has nothing better than to sacrifice a queen. *27.Qxf5 Qxf5-+)* 22...Bg3! 23.Rxg3 Qxg3 24.Qe1 White prevents immediate threats, but finishes up an exchange and a pawn down. Qxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Nc6-+ 0-1 Perunovic,M (2549)-Khmelniker,I (2458)/Warsaw 2005/ (31) The rest wasn't necessary. 0-1 (31) Perunovic,M (2549)-Khmelniker,I (2458) Warsaw 2005 The rest wasn't necessary.]

[Earlier White tested 15.Nb3 Ng4 16.Nc5 Bxc5 17.Bxc5 Rxf3 18.gxf3 Nge5↑

0-1 Jurkovic,A-Korneev,O/Barbera 1995/ (35) 0-1 Jurkovic,A-Korneev,O/Barbera 1995/EXT 97 (35). (35)]

[15.Bg5 Bd6 16.Bh4 Rae8 *(16...Ng4* transposes to Lanka,Z-Mikhalevski,V, Romania 1995. See below. *17.Bg3 Bxg3 18.hxg3 Bf5 19.Nb3 Bxc2 20.Qxc2 Qf7∓* ½-½ Lanka,Z-Mikhalevski,V/Baile Herculane 1994/ (56) ½-½ Lanka,Z-Mikhalevski,V/Baile Herculane 1994/EXT 97 (56)*)* 17.a4 b4 18.Bd3 Ne5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.Nf3 Bd6∓ 21.cxb4 Ne4= 0-1 Socko,B-Krasenkow,M/Warsaw 2002/ (52)]

[15.b4 a5 16.a3 axb4 17.axb4 Rxa1 18.Qxa1 Bd6 19.Bd3 Ne7 20.Re1 Bf5 21.Qb1 Bxd3 22.Qxd3± 1-0 (95) Smeets,J (2659)-L'Ami,E (2620) Eindhoven 2010 Nf5 23.Bg5 c6 24.Bxf6 Rxf6 25.Nb3± 1-0 (95) Smeets,J (2659)-L'Ami,E (2620) Eindhoven 2010]

[15.a4 Bd6 16.Re1 Bg8 17.Bf5 Qd8 18.Ng5 Ne5 19.h3 Re8 20.axb5 axb5 21.Rxa8 Qxa8 22.b4 Re7 23.Ngf3± 1-0 (58) Akopian,V (2713)-Filippov,A (2496) Khanty-Mansiysk 2007]

15...Bg8?! '?!'

[15...Ng4! 'N!' This brilliant idea of I. Sokolov refutes 15. Ng5. This strong move, introduced by Ivan Sokolov against Zoltan Almasi (see below) gives black excellent game. It appears that black can ignore white's threat on h7 point. It appears that black can ignore white's threat on h7 point. This brilliant idea of I. Sokolov refutes 15. Ng5.

A) 16.Nxh7?N 'N?' Actually falling into a trap.

A1) 16...Qd6 17.g3 Nxe3 *(17...Rg8* Ernst *18.Bf4 Qd8 19.h4∞)* 18.fxe3 Rxf1+ 19.Nxf1 Ne5 ɔh7;

A2) 16...Rf5!∓ As simple as strong. The ♘h7 is trapped and white will be forced to part with all his active light pieces very soon... 17.Qd1 *(17.h3 Nxe3 18.fxe3 g6∓)* 17...Nxe3 18.fxe3 g6 19.a4 *(19.Bxf5 Bxf5 20.e4 dxe4 21.Nxe4 Qxd1 22.Raxd1 Kxh7* and pair of black's bishops worth more than white's rook + pawn.*)* 19...b4 Correctly preventing from white the opening of the "a" file. The ♘h7 is going nowhere. 20.cxb4 Nxb4 21.Bxf5 Bxf5 22.Nf3?! *(*The best practical attempt was *22.e4 dxe4 23.Nxe4! Qxd1 24.Raxd1 Bxe4 25.Rd7* with some survival chances.*)* 22...Kxh7 Materially speaking, the position is approximately equal, however white has no chance to survive, since black's pieces control the whole board. 23.Rc1 c5 24.h3 Qe6 25.Qd2 Rc8-+ 0-1 (29) Ganguly,S (2582)-Nielsen,P (2628)/Tripoli 2004/ 26.h4 *(26.e4 Bxe4 27.Ng5+ Bxg5 28.Qxg5 Kg7-+)* 26...Kg8 27.Ng5 Qe5 28.b3 Bd6 29.Rf4 d4 0-1 (29) Ganguly,S (2582)-Nielsen,P (2628) Tripoli 2004 White resigned, because his position is totally collapsing.;

B) Comes to consideration 16.Nxe6 Qxe6 17.Re1 trying to simplify the position.;

C) 16.Ngf3 Qd6! '∓' '!' ' ∓' 17.Re1 Rxf3! '!?' '!' '!?' 18.Nxf3 Nce5 with a very strong attack in Almasi,Z-Sokolov,I, Hoogeveens 1995/CBM46 [Wedberg]

C1) 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 20.g3 *(20.h3* Ftacnik *Qh2+ 21.Kf1 Rf8; 20.f4 Qh5*

21.h3 Nxe3 22.Rxe3 Bc5 23.Qe1 Bxh3∓) 20...Qh5 21.h4

C1a) 21...g5 22.Bxg5 Bxg5 23.Rxe6

C1a1) 23...Nxf2 24.Kxf2!+- *(24.Qe1!?→)*;

C1a2) 23...Bxh4 24.Bg6! hxg6 *(24...Qg5 25.f4!?; 24...Qh6 25.Bf5)* 25.Qxg6 Qxg6 26.Rxg6 Ne5 27.Re6+-;

C1b) 21...Bxh4 22.gxh4 Qxh4 23.Bf5 *(23.Kf1 Rf8 24.Ke2 Rxf2+! 25.Bxf2 Qxf2+ 26.Kd1 Ne3+ 27.Rxe3 Bg4+-+)*

C1b1) 23...Rf8 Ernst 24.Bd4! Qh2+= '=' Wedberg. '=' 25.Kf1 Bxf5 *(25...Qh3+ 26.Kg1 Qh2+=)* 26.Qxf5 Qh1+ 27.Ke2 Qxe1+ 28.Rxe1 Rxf5 29.Kf1 h5! *(29...Kg8 30.Re7 Rf7 31.Re8+ Rf8 32.Re7=)* 30.Re7 Rg5∓;

C1b2) 23...Rf8-+;

C2) 19.Nd2 Nc4 20.Nf1 Rf8

C2a) 21.g3 Ftacnik Ncxe3 22.fxe3 Qe5∓;

C2b) 21.h3 Ernst Ncxe3 22.fxe3 Nf2⩱ *(22...Rxf1+? 23.Kxf1 Qg3 24.hxg4 Bh4 25.Kg1±; 22...Bh4⩱)*;

C2c) 21.Bd1 Ncxe3 22.fxe3 *(22.Rxe3* Ftacnik *Nxe3 23.Nxe3 c5∓)* 22...Rxf1+ '!' 23.Kxf1 Qxh2 24.Bf3 Ne5 25.Qd1 *(25.Ke2* Ftacnik *Nxf3 26.Kxf3 Bh4 27.Rf1 Bg4+!! 28.Kxg4 Qg3+ 29.Kf5 g6+ 30.Ke6 Qd6+ 31.Kf7 Qe7#)* 25...Bh4 26.Rc1 *(26.a3* Ftacnik *d4 27.cxd4 Bc4+ 28.Be2 Qh1#)* 26...Bg4-+ 0-1 Almasi,Z-Sokolov,I/Wijk aan Zee 1995/ (26) 27.Bxg4 Qh1+ 28.Ke2 Qxg2#]

16.Bf5 Qd8 Ernst

[16...Qd6 17.Nb3 g6 18.Bh3 Nh5 19.Nd4 Nf4 20.Bxf4 Rxf4 21.Nge6 Rh4= Sziebert,A-Karsa,L/Hun-ch/1993]

[16...Qe8 17.Ndf3 Bd6 18.Re1 Ne7 19.Be6± Sherzer,A-Mikhalevski,V/Mamia/1991]

17.Ndf3 Bd6 18.Qc2 Qe7 19.Nh4!? '!?'

[19.Rfe1± Sax,G-Rodriguez,R/Moskva/1981 Rfe8 20.Rad1 Qf8 21.Nh4 Ne7 22.Bh3± Sax,G-Rodriguez,R / Moscow izt 1982]

19...g6 20.Bh3 Ne5 21.Rae1 c5 22.f4 Nc4 23.Bc1↑ Marques-Joseph / corr 1986

14.h3 Bf5 15.Bxf5 Qxf5 16.Nb3 doesn't seem to create serious problems for Black. 16...Ne4 17.Nbd4 Nxd4 18.Nxd4 Qg6 19.Qg4 Qxg4 20.hxg4± 1-0 (50) Kamsky,G (2710)-Piket,J (2670) Monte Carlo 1995 20...Bc5 21.Rfd1 Rfe8 22.a4 Bxd4 23.Bxd4± 1-0 (50) Kamsky,G (2710)-Piket,J (2670) Monte Carlo 1995

14.Bg5 Bd6 15.a4 b4 16.a5 bxc3 17.bxc3 Qf7 18.Re1 h6 19.Bh4 Ng4 20.Bg3 Bxg3 21.hxg3 Bf5 22.Ba4 Nxa5 23.Ne5 Nxe5 24.Rxe5= ½ (31) Polgar,J (2710)-Koneru,H (2589) Caleta 2012 24...Rad8= ½ (31) Polgar,J (2710)-Koneru,H (2589) Caleta 2012

14.Re1 Bd6 15.Nf1 Bf5 16.Ng3 Bxg3 17.hxg3 Rae8= 1-0 Frolov,A-Mikhalevski,V/Kiev 1995/ (70) 18.a4 Bxc2 19.Qxc2 Ne4 20.axb5 axb5 21.Nd2 Qf5 22.Bf4 g5 23.Be3= 1-0 (70) Frolov,A (2520)-Mikhalevski,V (2495) Kiev

1995

14.a4 Bf5

[14...b4 15.Bd3 Bd6 16.Qe2 Ng4 17.Bd4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Bf5 19.Bxf5 Qxf5 20.Rac1 Rae8 21.Qd1 Re6 22.h3 Nf6 23.Qb3 Kh8 24.Ne5 c5 25.f4 c4 26.Qf3 Bxe5 ½-½ (26) Lopez Martinez,J (2563)-Szabo,K (2438) Dresden 2007]

15.Bxf5 Qxf5 16.axb5 axb5 17.Qe2 Rab8 18.Ra6 Qd7 19.h3 Bd6 20.Qd3 Ne7 21.b4 Nh5 22.Nd4± ½ (67) Iordachescu,V (2564)-Delchev,A (2628) Predeal 2006

[130] **15.Bg3** Bg4 16.Re1 Nf4!→ 17.Qb1 h6 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.Rxe5 Ne2+ 20.Kh1 c6 21.f3 Nxg3+ 22.hxg3 Bd6-+ ½ (52) Mortensen,E (2470)-Sokolov,I (2570) Thessaloniki 1988 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-10.c3 Qd7 11.Nbd2 0-0 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik] 23.Re3 Bh5 24.Qe1 Rae8∓ ½ (52) Mortensen,E (2470)-Sokolov,I (2570) Thessaloniki 1988

[131] **12.Nxe4** dxe4 13.Nd4

[13.Qxd7+ Bxd7 14.Ng5 *(14.e6 Bxe6 15.Ng5 Bxb3 16.axb3 Bxg5 17.Bxg5 Rd5 18.Bf4 Kd7 19.Rxa6 Re8 20.Rc1!= Ne5 21.c4 bxc4 22.bxc4 Nxc4 23.Ra7 Rc8=* 0-1 (51) Dvoirys,S (2515)-Krasenkow,M (2495) Katowice 1992*)* 14...Nxe5 15.Bd4 Bxg5 16.Bxe5 0-0 17.Bxc7 Rc8 18.Bb6 Rfe8 19.Rfe1 h5 20.Bd4 Bc6 21.Re2 Rcd8= 0-1 (74) Timman,J (2590)-Kortschnoj,V (2625) Reykjavik 1987]

13...Bxb3 14.axb3 Nxe5 15.Qh5 Nc6

[15...Bd6!?]

[15...Qd5 16.Nf5 Bf8 17.Rfd1 Nd3 18.Bd4 g6 19.Qh4 Qxf5 20.Bxh8 Be7 21.Qg3 f6 22.Rxa6 Kf7-+ 1-0 (37) Anand,V (2710)-Kortschnoj,V (2605) Monte Carlo 1993]

16.Rxa6 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 0-0+- 18.Qe5 f6 19.Qxe4 c5 20.Be3 Rfe8 21.g3 Bf8 22.Qc6 Qd3 23.Rfa1 Rxe3 24.fxe3 Qxe3+ 25.Kh1 Rd6 26.Qb7 ½-½ (26) Timman,J (2630)-Kortschnoj,V (2630) Tilburg 1987

12.Nd4 Nxd2 13.Qxd2 Nxe5 14.f4 Nc4 15.Bxc4 dxc4 16.f5 Bd5 17.f6 Bxf6 18.Rae1 Be6 19.Qf2 0-0 20.Qg3 Qd6 21.Bf4 Bxd4+ 22.Kh1 Qc6-+ 0-1 (43) Zapata,A (2505)-Kortschnoj,V (2625) Wijk aan Zee 1987

12.Qe1 Nxd2 13.Bxd2 0-0 14.h3 d4 15.cxd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Qxd4 17.Bc3 Qf4 18.Ba5 Rd7 19.Qe2 c5 20.Rad1 c4 21.Bc2 Bc5 22.Rxd7 Bxd7 23.e6 Bxe6 24.Bxh7+ Kxh7 25.Qh5+ Qh6 26.Qxc5± 1-0 (80) Giri,A (2686)-Van Wessel,R (2383) Netherlands 2010

12.Bc2 Bf5 13.a4 0-0 14.axb5 axb5 15.Nxe4 Bxe4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Qxd7 Rxd7 18.e6 fxe6 19.Nd2 Ne5 20.Ra6 Nd3 21.b4 Rd6 22.Ra7 Rc6 23.Nxe4± 1-0 (73) Samant,A (2433)-Lysyj,I (2603) Chess.com INT 2022

[132] **12...0-0** 13.Re1

[13.Bc2 f5 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Ng5 *(15.Nd4 Nxd4 16.cxd4 c5 17.Nf3 c4 18.Ne5 Qc8 19.g4 Nd7 20.Nf3 Nf6 21.Ne5 Nd7 22.Nf3* ½-½ Bar,A-Rapoport,

E/ISR-ch U18 1997/; *15.Qb1 h6 16.Re1 Nh5 17.Qd1 Nf4 18.Bxf4 Rxf4=* Al Modiahki,M-Milos,G/Moscow olm/1994*)* 15...Bf5 16.Bxf5 Qxf5 17.Qb1 Qd7 18.a4 Bd6 19.axb5 axb5 20.Ngf3 Ne7 21.Qd3 c5 22.Rfe1= 0-1 (40) Kengis,E (2575)-Anand,V (2715) Riga 1995 Nf5= 0-1 (40) Kengis,E (2575)-Anand,V (2715) Riga 1995 23.Bg5 c4 24.Qc2 h6 25.Ne5 Qc8 26.Bxf6 Rxf6 27.Ndf3 Bc5 Kengis,E-Anand,V/Riga Tal 1995/ 0-1 (40)]

13...Nxd2

[13...Bf5

A) ⌓14.Bc2!?= Bg6 15.Nb3 Rfe8 16.Rc1 *(16.Nbd4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 c5 18.Ne2 d4 19.cxd4 cxd4 20.Nxd4 Bb4 21.Rf1 Bc5 22.Nf3 Bxe3 23.fxe3 Qc7∓ ½* (43) Firouzja,A (2759)-Mamedyarov,S (2770) chess24.com INT 2021 *)* 16...Qc8 17.Bf4 Nb8 18.Nfd2 Nxd2 19.Qxd2 Bxc2 20.Rxc2 c5 21.e6 fxe6 22.Bxb8 Qxb8 23.Rxe6= 1-0 (74) Kovalenko,I (2643)-Petrosyan,M (2628) Chess.com INT 2020 Ruy Lopez Open Variation-12.Nbd2 Rd8 Survey 2023 Lexikon23 [Ftacnik];

B) 14.Nf1? Bg6 15.Qe2

B1) 15...Bh5!? 16.Rad1! Qe6!∓ *(16...Nxe5 17.Rxd5 Nxf3+ 18.gxf3 Qxh3 19.Rxh5 Qxh5 20.fxe4 Qg6+ 21.Ng3∞)*;

B2) 15...Na5∓

B2a) 16.Bc2 Nc4 17.Bd3!?∓ Δa4 *(17.Bc1?! Bc5 18.Ne3 Rfe8∓ ×e5)*;

B2b) 16.Red1 Nc4 *(⌓16...Qe6)* 17.Ne1 *(17.a4!?)* 17...c6 *(17...Nxe5?! 18.Bxd5)* 18.Nd3 Bh4?! *(⌓18...Rfe8 19.f3 Ng5 △20.Bxc4?! bxc4 21.Nc5 Bxc5 22.Bxc5 f6∓)* 19.f3 Ng3 20.Nxg3 Bxg3 21.f4 h5?! *(⌓21...Bh5!? 22.Qxh5 Nxe3 23.Rd2 Nc4 24.Re2±)* 22.Bxc4 bxc4 23.Nc5 Qc8 24.Qf3 h4

B2b1) 25.Bf2!± Qf5 *(25...Qb8 26.Bxg3 hxg3 27.b4!±)* 26.Bxg3 Bh5 27.Qe3 Bxd1 28.Bxh4!± △Rb8 29.Rxd1 Qh5 30.Qe1;

B2b2) 25.Bd4? a5?! *(⌓25...Qf5)* 26.Rf1?! *(⌓26.Bf2)* 26...Qf5 27.b3 Bh5 28.Qe3 Rfe8 29.Rab1 cxb3 30.axb3 f6 31.e6?! *(⌓31.Ra1)* 31...Rd6!= ½-½ Li Shilong (2335)-Lin Weiguo (2470)/Beijing 1997/ (41) Δ♖de6]

14.Qxd2 Na5 15.Bg5±

[15.Bc2 Nc4 16.Qd3 g6 17.Bc1 c5 18.b3 Na5 19.Bg5 Bf5 20.Qd2 Bxc2 21.Qxc2 Nc6 22.Rad1 Rfe8 23.Qd2 d4= 0-1 (69) Maghsoodloo,P (2721)-Mamedyarov,S (2757) Shusha 2022]

15...c5 16.Bc2 Bxg5 17.Nxg5 Bf5 18.g4 Nc4 19.Qc1 Be4 20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Bxe4 Rfe8 22.Qc2 g6 23.f4 Qd2± ½ (76) Short,N (2500)-Jussupow,A (2570) Thessaloniki 1984

[133] **15.Rfe1** Nc6 16.Rad1 h6 17.Bxe7 Qxe7

[17...Nxe7!? 18.Qe3 Qc8 Δ 19...♗f5; Kovacevic,Vlado]

18.Bc2 0-0 19.Qd3 g6 20.Qe3 Kg7 21.a3 a5 22.Qf4 Rd7 23.Rd2= 1-0 (49) Short,N (2650)-Ljubojevic,L (2580) Linares 1989 Line Ruy Lopez Open

Variation-10.c3 Qd7 11.Nbd2/Survey 2023